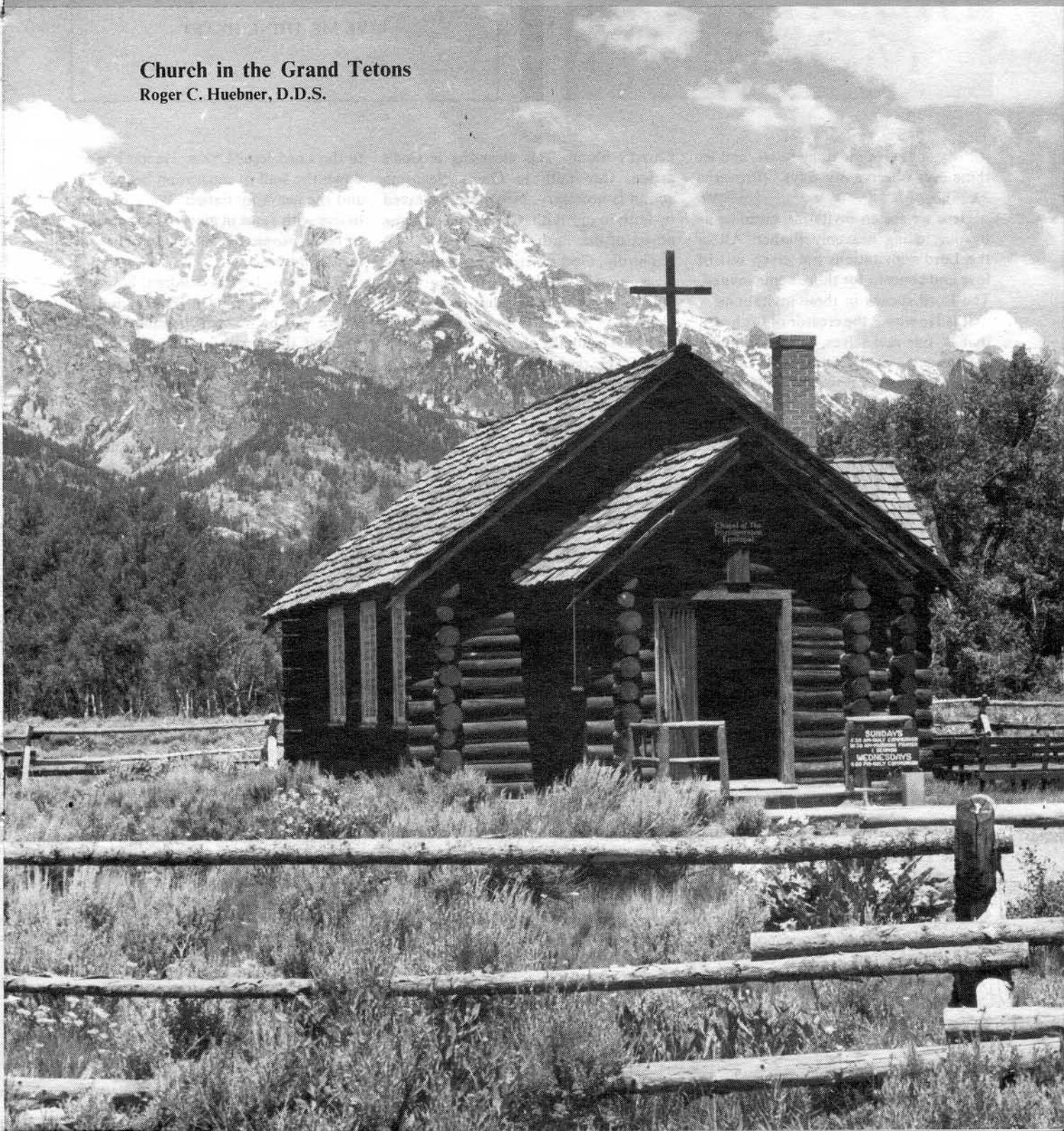


26
June 13, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

Church in the Grand Tetons
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

GIVE ME THINE HEART

"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Proverbs 23:26).

Here we see an invitation given to us by our loving heavenly Father. All of the Lord's invitations are given out of love and concern for those being invited. The Lord speaks in these invitations.

It is He who is the creator of the heart, that is, our real selves, our personality. He has made us and wants us to come to Him, to do just as Proverbs 23:26 invites us to do, "Give me thine heart."

Not only does the Lord want us to give our real selves to him, He wants us to give our bodies to Him as well. Right now our bodies are just as much a part of our total being as are our personalities. Yes, this is our great Lord and Savior speaking. He will save us and keep us in His care.

For what purpose does the Lord want our heart? First He wants to give it light. We are filled with the darkness of sin before Jesus saves us. Only the Lord can enlighten our pathway. He shows us our sin and He directs us on His narrow way.

Secondly, the Lord wants to cleanse our hearts from sin. The immediate result of giving Christ our lives is the purging of sin. We are cleansed by

Christ's blood. **This cleansing is God's action.** Our faith in God's cleansing action is necessary. Never are we saved by faith in our faith. Christ is always the object of our faith.

Thirdly, God sanctifies us, that is, He gives us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to cause us to grow. Growth is necessary or we will wither and die spiritually.

Next, He desires that Jesus dwell "in" us. This is the great mystery of salvation, when Jesus lives in our hearts. He enters when we respond to the Lord's invitation. His presence cleanses us from all sin and His presence **keeps on** cleansing us from all sin. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.

Lastly, the Lord wants us to give Him our hearts so He can bring our hearts to glory. This is the goal and the purpose of the invitation. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also**" (John 14:3).

"For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the captain (author) of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10).

So, it is to our gain to give our hearts

to the Lord Jesus Christ. He has broken down the wall of separation between us and the heavenly Father. We are meant to live with Jesus in glory. We are meant to be His sons, His daughters, His very own children.

We cannot be His children, however, unless we respond to His invitation. There will be no real happiness in this life and there will be no possibility of glory in Heaven when we reject this invitation to give Him our hearts. Can we afford to do otherwise? The cost is really too great.

When should we give God our hearts? The Word of God knows no tomorrows. The Scripture speaks only of today. A delay in acceptance of the loving invitation of God means to be led into further sinning and into further problems. We are urged by the Word of God to give the Lord our entire being, both body and soul. We are to give ourselves freely and fully and unreservedly to Him. If we do contrary to this, we will have nothing but vainglory in this world and shame in the next. "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Proverbs 23:26).

Dennis Gray

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH Part II

Many individuals have arisen to great power on earth. Many have arisen to prominence in the life of the church. Many congregations, church bodies, etc., are large and seemingly successful. Not all success is attained by the right methods. Success can be attained by compromising, ideal-lowering, people-pleasing, and power-manipulating. Jesus was not to be an economic Messiah, nor a priest's Messiah, nor a politician's Messiah, nor a people's Messiah, but God's Messiah. He was to build a spiritual Kingdom in the hearts of men and relying on God's methods alone. Because of this, He was rejected by most, but exalted to the Right Hand of God the Father.

The Kingdom of God is not of this world. "The Kingdom of God is within you." God's Kingdom "cometh not by observation." While He does not abandon this world to the Evil One, nor project God's Kingdom only to the future, Christ does understand God's character and the way His purposes are realized in this world. He, as a Kingdom-builder, is a personality builder. He makes men new.

The most important problems are not the "problems of the day," but people with their spiritual needs. People need the Savior. "Only Christ can transform sinful human life into usable Kingdom-material." "He loosed us from our sins by His blood; and He made us to be a kingdom."

The Association must be constantly examining herself as to goals and methods. The goals and methods not Scriptural, although humanly successful, must be abandoned. The seeming end does not justify the means. We are incapable of seeing the final end of our actions. We in faith rely on God's methods and God's methods alone.

Our Lord used God's Word as He answered the Tempter. The Word determined the answer. It is comforting that no special enlightenment or ability is needed to recognize Satan's actions nor to overcome them. Simply know and obey the Word. People err because they do not know the Scriptures. As we face the world, we need no other weapon than the Word and the Sacraments. To

use other weapons is futility. The mind of the flesh is still death.

The message of the early church as it faced an unbelieving and hating world can be summarized briefly in three words: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This must be our message, too.

Our world is trying to blot God out of consideration and life. Few people are really aware of God. The god many believe in is small, effeminate, and unreal. He can see, hear, and do nothing. He is no good at all. The church must reveal to our world that God is God. The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Man is still man, only man. God is God.

Man is trying to live according to his own plans. He is not asking God to show him the way. We all know what the result will be. But let the church reveal a God who is great and awesome in might and power, and live in His fellowship lives that speak of eternity as more important than time. Let the world always be forced to say, "They have a great God." Their God uses nations and rulers to do His Will. A thousand years are but as a day to Him. He is a God of terrifying power: He raises the dead and walks beside His own. He reigns forever. Alas, all too often, the world sees a play-boy god in today's church. Thus man does not fear.

While the Word of a God of might and power gives our message a tone of eternal majesty and absoluteness, it is the message of Christ that changes lives. Christ redeems sinful men. Thus Paul determined "not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (I Cor. 2:27). Christ alone can make it possible for sinful man to come into fellowship with his God. Christ reconciles the sinner to his God. The church must always point to the Christ Who redeems, even the worst of sinners, yes, even such as I am. Thus there is hope. Thus lives are changed. Thus even our society, or world, can be changed. Nothing else can do it. But Christ must be known as a personal Savior, through faith.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies. The world is always trying to sanctify itself. People are always trying to make themselves

holy. Even some Christian people try to do that. But the Holy Spirit alone can sanctify. Here we quote Luther's immortal explanation of the third article of the creed: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true."

Dear friends in Christ, let the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations be a true church, building God's King-

REV. R. SNIPSTEAD ELECTED ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Rev. R. Snipstead, 50, Ferndale, Wash., was elected president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations on June 15 at the Annual Conference.

He received 61% of the vote on the second ballot, more than enough to be declared the winner. Closest to him of the other three candidates was Rev. David C. Molstre, evangelist-youth worker, who had 20% of the vote.

On the first ballot there were ten nominees.

Pastor and Mrs. Snipstead have been vacationing since the Conference, but are returning to Ferndale now to complete their ministry there before moving to the Twin Cities this fall where he will assume his new duties on Oct. 1.

More about the election and the conference next time. This issue of the **Ambassador** was prepared prior to the conference and we can only include this brief note here.

dom, using God's Methods and God's Power, residing in Word and Sacraments. Anything else we may do is only hay, wood and stubble.

The Past Year

There has been much activity on the church scene this past year too. God is not dead. Satan is not bound.

The Association is a small part of the whole church of Christ in our world. We thank God for our many brethren in the faith who are not of our communion. We are not responsible for them. God holds us responsible for our response to His Grace.

Again there is discussion of union of the Lutheran church bodies. The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches has sent out an invitation to the various Lutheran bodies to a meeting looking forward to a possible union. This union can be of different forms. It is predicted that this invitation will receive a cool reception from the more theologically-conservative Lutheran bodies. The ALC does not seem too interested at this time in further explorations moving towards union. The greatest interest seems to be in the Lutheran Church of America.

We have been much encouraged by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in their struggles against liberal theology. We thank God for their courageous stand on the inerrancy of the Word of God. While they have experienced some membership losses, they have been slight. Although they will continue to be a favorite target of the liberal theologians, undoubtedly they will come out much stronger for their Biblical position. We are grateful for the opportunity to send some of our students to their Concordia Theological Seminary to pursue graduate work in theology. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is open for greater understanding with the Association. While there are differences not to be ignored, the possibility for a greater understanding and recognition is present. They have contributed much to us. We trust we can contribute something to them. We believe we have a spiritual fellowship with them.

Our Congregations

God is working in our congregations through Word and Sacraments. Our pastors are faithful in their ministries. While there is always need for

awakening and revival, we must not forget to thank God for constant blessings.

With a large class graduating from our theological seminary, the pastoral supply will be much improved. The critical pastoral shortage of the past two years is ending. We thank God for that.

Comments are occasionally heard concerning procedures of congregations when calling a pastor, and pastors when receiving calls. We recognize that our congregations are autonomous and run their own affairs. Some congregations and some pastors would appreciate some generally accepted suggestions, if there are such, for consideration in these matters. Perhaps the Co-ordinating Committee could appoint a committee of three laymen and two pastors to study this matter and prepare some suggestions for consideration to be presented at the next annual conference. These, of course, must only be suggestions.

Our Corporate Work

The Association lives to build congregations. Congregations do not live to build the Association. In this we differ from many churches.

Our corporate work is important. It makes it possible to do what individual congregations cannot do alone in order that the nations be "discipled."

We thank God for our schools. Our church needs them. Our youth need them. We must pray that the schools' enrollment be increased by earnest youth seeking to grow in grace through the Word. May our schools give the knowledge and firm discipline needed that spiritual maturity be attained.

We are grateful that the debt reduction effort the last two years attained the projected goal. It is evident that our people are loyal and generous when properly informed of needs.

Our mission work continues to show good progress. The needs in the world are great. Doors, home and foreign, are continually opening. We must be wise lest we spread ourselves so thin that nothing significant is done anywhere.

The Parish Education department is continuing to add new courses of study. They are to be commended and supported in their efforts. Word-centered studies uncluttered by distracting gimmicks are scarce. Truth in black and white is better than error in color.

The Women's Missionary Federation continues the fine emphasis on Bible

study and mission support. They have been most successful in giving generous support for the entire work of the Association.

The Luther League Federation is encouraged to develop a Word-centered youth emphasis that fits into a congregation's program. Youth are an important part of today's church. They are not special, nor are they to be neglected. The congregation is to be one fellowship. Young and old need each other. We are grateful for the fine work of our Youth Worker-Evangelist and must continue to uphold him in our prayers.

The financial support of our corporate work was again commendable. While the overall budget was not reached, the increase in giving was fine. Last year's budget was decreased from the year before, and yet the giving was increased. Evidently there is a general pattern of about a 10% increase in giving year after year, regardless of the budget. It is well to keep this in mind when budgets are approved.

For years the church has discussed securing additional help for promotion, business management, stewardship counselling and foundation development. The need has been great. The Co-ordinating Committee is prepared to secure such an individual, if possible, shortly after this conference. It was felt that the new president of the A.F.L.C. should be involved in the process of selection. In the meantime, legal help is available for estate planning, wills and annuities.

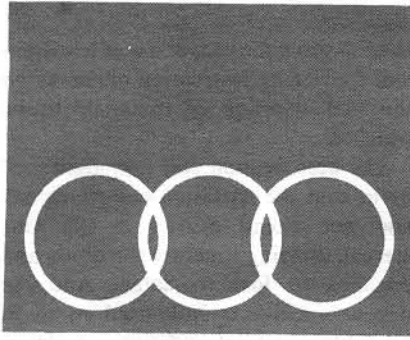
Necrology

This past year saw the passing of one of the pioneer pastors of the Association. Pastor E. P. Dreyer died on May 19, 1977 in Spokane, Washington. He was buried on May 23, with the Rev. A. L. Hokanson officiating. Pastor Dreyer was a humble and devout servant of our Lord and vitally supportive of the Association. We thank God for him.

(At this point the message contained a listing of anniversaries, dedications, etc. They are omitted here but may be found in the complete annual report.)

Gratitude

At the last annual conference I informed the church that I was not
(Continued on page 9)



WHAT I LEARNED ON MY CRUISE

May 4, 1978

It has been just one month to the day that I left my wife, Debbie (Flach), on the pier at Alameda, California, to go as my country bids me to the western Pacific Ocean area for a cruise. It brings back memories from the last cruise between July, 1976, and March, 1977. I have long desired to share these memories with my Christian brethren. I have been compelled to sit, write and share with you those memories, and the prayers and burdens on my heart that have followed them.

I write this letter not to step on toes, or convict any persons of something that they should, or should not be doing, but for the glory of God that all might see what is being done in the areas that I have been allowed to visit. If anyone is convicted or offended let it be because the Spirit of God is speaking to their hearts.

My first stop in the last cruise was Hawaii. There I met a young man from Campus Crusade for Christ. He was spending his vacation in Hawaii, but because of his deep desire to walk with the Lord and do His will he had just finished sharing the way of salvation with a family. He had not pushed it on them but rather had very politely introduced himself and then explained what God had for them if they wished to take it. The people were very receptive but desired to talk it over between themselves and he did not press for a response but gave them his address and phone where they could reach him. I spoke to him briefly and found that while in Hawaii he had planted many seeds and had the blessing of seeing a few souls come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I bid him God's blessing and we prayed and departed. I know the Lord really used that young man.

Our next stop was in Subic Bay, the Philippine Islands. There I had the opportunity to meet and speak with two missionaries and although they were both Baptist in doctrine we were able to speak freely and fellowship openly. This was a rather different experience but in searching for understanding I found only one thing on their minds. That was to bring people to Jesus Christ and to ground those people in the Word of God. I found it was not the desire of these people to make Baptists, as is so often found, but rather just to preach God's Word for joy and the glory of God. There was much fellowship and joy there between many denominations, all of which believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Another stop was Hong Kong and although I did not have the opportunity to meet any missionaries there several of my friends did and spoke of it later with great joy in what these missionaries were doing in China.

While cruising the Indian Ocean we had a port of call in Mombasa, Kenya, which is in Africa. There I spoke with two missionaries, both of whom were really on fire for the Lord and both had been under fire for the Lord. Both missionaries had originally been called to Uganda, but the Lord called them out of Uganda just after the terrible persecution of Christians started there.

They were reluctant to leave but after several raids and several of their people had been mercilessly murdered they relented and moved their ministry to Kenya. Because they both had professional skills President Kenyatta welcomed them and many others like them. The work that they were doing for the Lord in Kenya was a real blessing to the nation because the nation was hungry and the missionaries had been teaching many of God's Word.

The final nation I recall, and with fond memories, was Australia. We visited the city of Hobart on the island of Tasmania. I believe this was the most enjoyable port of call the Enterprise made because the people accepted us with open arms. The people were open to the Gospel there and I had the opportunity to stay with a family of 11 children when I was there. A married couple had been called to open their home to children who did not have a home. They had three of their own. They were richly blessed in what they were do-

ing, undoubtedly because it was God's call for them. They were doing their utmost to rear these children in the ways of God and the results and response were very obvious.

This, then, is a short version of what happened on the last cruise, but there was much more that happened than I can really explain. I found out just what a person can do with the power of God behind him. I found out what it really means to be a dedicated Christian. I found out just how rich we in the United States are, and also just how poor we are. The two missionaries in the Philippines had minimum contact with the people at home. The mail wasn't that hard to get; they just didn't get that much. The missionaries in Kenya hadn't heard from anyone in Sweden (their home) for several months, with the exception of their sponsor, who mailed out the monies and a form letter with regularity. How rich we are as a people, monetarily, but how much richer are people who are willing to continue to work for the glory and gain of Jesus Christ with what seems to be no spiritual support.

How quickly we become depressed if we are working for the truth and it seems that we are the only ones. How much more so it must be for our missionaries who do not have much contact with their church, with their body of believers back home.

As a serviceman, I know that it would be easier to face an enemy if the people of the United States were behind me rather than opposed to the battle I wage. Surely a missionary needs to know we are behind him, upholding him to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are the ones who have to support our missionaries, and this not only with money. Certainly our missionaries need support from us. Let them know that we are continually praying for them. Write to your missionaries today and let them know that you are backing them spiritually. Keep in contact with them. It will be a blessing to you and a great uplifting to them.

I look forward to this cruise in that I will again be a companion of several missionaries, informing them that although few write, we as Christians support them. I will be able to share and learn with them and grow in the love that our Lord Jesus Christ has for His children.

—Jerome L. Mellem

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

"TV, MOVIES, ETC . . ."

This is a most difficult area to write on simply because there is such a divergence of opinion about the place of television and movies.

Sometimes you will meet those who seem to have a lot of freedom to watch television. At other times, you will meet people who do not have as much freedom. It is the same with the movies. Sometimes you will meet individuals who will question the Christianity of those who have freedoms in this area. Others will claim people are "law bound" when they make a stand against these things and do not allow their families to watch TV or attend movies.

In our home, we have always attempted to teach that a Christian is to be separated from the world. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

As a Christian does not drink alcohol, so he does not deliberately saturate himself with worldly television programs and worldly movies. The words of Paul in Colossians 3:1, 2 come to mind. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection (mind) on things above, not on things on the earth."

There are so many good things to do in life. Why rob yourself of these better things to do? Scripture reading and study, prayer, conversation with the family, doing things together as a family—these are some suggestions. "And be not conformed (fashioned according) to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your

mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

So much of television and the movies is saturated with sensual material. Even humor is sex-saturated. Swearing is becoming commonplace. Soon the restrictions will be lifted in favor of what the entertainment industry calls "reality." Things are being seen on the television and movie screens that Christians should not feed upon. A diet of such things will break down the Christian's defense against Satan, the world, and our sinful old nature. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Every one of us is to give an account to the Lord, as Romans 14:12 tells us. Your moments in front of the television or at a movie theatre will be accounted for! Not only those moments, but other moments will be accounted for by you and me!

It could be very well possible that the programs you watch could so saturate your mind that you find yourself involved in the sinful pursuits television or movies brought to your mind! Proverbs 4:23 states, "Keep the heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." So the moments in front of the television can lead to misusing other moments in sinful ways.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor **any thing** whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak" (Romans 14:21).

This verse speaks of another factor. This is the factor of our fellow Christians stumbling, backsliding or falling away from the Lord. We do not have freedoms if they lead ourselves or others astray. We are to do only those things which will edify us and our friends. Edify simply means to help to grow. In this case, we do not have freedoms which will cause another to become involved with things detrimental to their spiritual health.

Personally, I cannot see that television or the movies are totally wrong. I believe that Christians can use them for His honor and glory. These things can promote the Gospel. However, they can be used wrongly. In our family, we have

tried to teach the proper use of television and movies by instructing ourselves on the best selection of materials to be watched.

The best weapon still may right well be to shut the television completely off and not attend movies at all. Our eternal, undying souls are too costly and precious to lose to Satan. And, he devours us little by little until we are in his control and not under the control of Jesus. Even a little television watching or movie going could result in slavery to such, even when we think we have the freedom to watch and we think we are strong enough to overcome the temptation!

Pastor Dennis Gray
Spicer, Minnesota

Letters TO THE EDITOR

WE ENDORSE THE GOSPEL TEAM

We have recently been privileged to have our Ambassadors (AFLBS summer team) in our church, Section Ten, at Cumberland, Wis. The concert was a real blessing and we enjoyed it so much. It's so good to have the message of the cross and our salvation through Jesus Christ come through so loud and clear.

We praise the Lord for the type of music that comes out of our Bible School and hope and pray it will continue to be Christ-centered.

We know we are very fortunate to have one such as Mr. Don Rodvold leading in this area. I hope we all appreciate the Lord's favor to us in keeping him within the AFLBS.

Today, when worldly lust is trying to blur the message, we really appreciate listening to true Christian music.

Let's keep praying and praising.

Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Nyhus
Almena, Wis.

(Ed. note: Be sure to hear the Ambassadors when they appear in your parish this summer.)



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



ANN DECIDES TO ADOPT A GRANDFATHER

On Mother's Day, Mom and Dad each wore a white carnation. The young Johnsons each wore a bright red one. The blossoms had been cut from the potted carnations Mom grew in the sunny bay window of the dining room.

Dad proudly declared that Mom had a "green thumb" because she manages to have some house plants blooming all the time. Almost every Sunday she would have a fresh bloom to wear on her dress. Mom would always say, "Plants are like people—they do best when they are given loving care."

As they drove to church now, Paul asked, "Mom, why do you and Dad have white carnations—and the rest of us have red ones? Is it because you like white ones better than red ones?"

"No, Paul," Mom replied, "we don't wear white ones because we like them better than the red. We like both the red ones and the white ones. Carnations are worn on Mother's Day to honor our mothers. When people wear red carnations that's to show they are honoring mothers who are living. But Dad's mother, and my mother, are both dead—so we wear white carnations—because white carnations are for mothers that are not living."

"Oh," said Paul, "I'm sorry you don't have a Mommie."

Mom didn't answer, but her arm stole around him.

Then Dad spoke up. "Lots of times, Mother and I wish our mothers were living so we could visit them, and write letters to them. But we're glad though, that they were Christians and died in the Lord. Now they are with Him in the heavenly mansions" (John 14:2).

"Both our grandfathers are dead, too," said Melissa, sadly. "I can

remember Grandpa Johnson a little—but I never even saw Mom's father. The Reynolds kids have lots of fun with their grandpa when he comes to visit them. Sure wish we had a grandpa like theirs."

Ann suddenly sat forward and fairly shouted, "I know what! Why can't we adopt a grandfather like we've adopted Josefa for a brother?"

Almost everyone turned and stared at Ann in astonishment.

"Adopt a grandfather! Whoever heard of such a thing as adopting a grandfather?" cried Mark. "You can adopt kids—and babies—but you can't go adopting old men, Ann."

"What's more," said Stephen, "we'd better make sure we can afford to keep Josefa in decent clothes before we go adopting a grandfather, too!"

But Ann's enthusiasm wasn't dampened. "Well, we wouldn't have to—really—adopt him. We could just sort of make believe he's our grandfather. We could go visit him. It would be fun to be able to call someone 'Grandpa'—even if it was just sort of play. And we could give him birthday presents, and Christmas gifts, and plan surprises for him."

"Say now," said Dad, "I think you've got a good idea, there, Ann. Maybe we can adopt a grandfather—that way. What do you think, Mother?"

Mom's eyes twinkled. "I think Ann has a splendid idea. I'm proud of her for thinking of it."

"But who could we adopt for a Grandpa," wondered Stephen who wasn't so sure Ann's idea would really work.

"Maybe," suggested Melissa, "the Reynolds grandpa could be our grandpa, too."

"Oh, no, the Reynolds kids would never stand for that," decided Mark. "They think he's so special they

wouldn't want to share him with any other family."

Dad chuckled. "It might not be so easy to find a man that wants six Johnson kids yelling Grandpa at him!"

"Well, we're going to be real nice to our Grandpa," insisted Ann. "I'm sure there must be some old man—maybe a lonely old man that doesn't have any family—that would be glad to be our Grandpa."

"But who?" persisted Stephen.

"I think I'd rather have a Grandmom than a Grandpop," decided Paul.

All the Johnsons laughed at this. Then Dad said, "Well, we'll see what we can find. Perhaps it will be easier to find a Grandmom than a Grandpop. Guess we'll have to have our sixteen eyes open, and do plenty of thinking to get ourselves a grandparent."

The Johnsons all thought and thought the rest of the way to church. But not one of them could think of an old man they could adopt for a grandfather or an old lady they could adopt for a grandmother.

It was just as they were slipping into their pew, that Ann got another idea. Quickly she whispered to Dad, "I've got an idea—where we can get a grandfather—"

Dad only smiled, put his fingers to his lips.

Ann knew that meant she must remember to be quiet. Dad always wanted them to be quiet and reverent in church; he always reminded them that if there was any whispering to be done in church, it should be done into the ear of the heavenly Father.

So Ann knew she would have to wait until after church, and after Sunday school, before she could tell where the Johnsons could get a Grandpa.

Memory verse: In my father's House

are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

Family Discussion

1. Do you think Ann has a good and sensible idea about adopting a grandfather? Why?

2. Can you think of any lonely old people in your church or in the neighborhood—who may not have relatives—and who would appreciate having us do such things for them as we'd do for our own grandparents?

3. What are our responsibilities to any old folks in our family? (I Timothy 5:8)

4. How should we treat all old folks? (With respect—Leviticus 19:32; I Timothy 5:1)

5. How does God want us to be toward our parents? (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20)

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ROSE CHURCH TO CONDUCT 90TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

Rose Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minn., Jerome Nikunen, pastor, will have ceremonies marking the 90th anniversary of founding, July 8 and 9. The Saturday night session will be informal, in the form of an open house. There will be displays, a slide presentation and a lunch served by the Youth Group.

There will be a worship service at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, a dinner at noon and an ordination service at 1:30 p.m. At that time, Mr. James Fugleberg, a son of the congregation, will be ordained into the ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. He will become pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontonagon, Mich., this summer.

Special invitations have been sent to former pastors Edwin Kjos and Erling Huglen, to Pastors Michael Brandt and Jay Eberth, who served as student pastors, and to Mrs. R. J. Huglen and Mrs. J. T. Quanbeck, widows of former pastors at Rose.

All friends of Rose Church are welcome to attend.

THIRD ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP SCHEDULED FOR SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

The Southwest Central District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will sponsor its third annual youth camp, July 16-21, at Faith Haven Youth Lodge, Battle Lake, Minn.

Camp evangelist will be Rev. David C. Molstre, AFLC evangelist-youth director. The Bible teacher will be Rev. Forrest Swenson, who will then be pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., and Stiklestad Lutheran Church, Doran, Minn.

The dean of the camp will be Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer and Willmar, Minn. The camp is open to all those who are in grades 7-12. The cost is \$22 per camper.

The first camp session will be the evening service on Sunday night at 8 o'clock. Registration will precede it for one hour.

Faith Haven is located on the north shore of Eagle Lake, about 10 miles northeast of Ashby on Highway 78.

Contact one of the area pastors of the AFLC about attending.

A lifeguard is needed for the camp. If you are qualified, please contact Pastor Gray in Spicer or Rev. Fred Carlson, assistant dean, Route 1, Sebeka, Minn. 56477.

CONFIRMANDS AND GRADUATES HONORED AT GREEN LAKE

The confirmands and graduates were honored on Sunday, June 4, at Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., Dennis Gray, pastor. The movie "Senior Year" was shown. Those confirmed on May 28 were Keven Haugen, Pamela Jones, Lynette Krause and Becky Mead.

Graduating from high school were Juanita deCathelineau, Allen Bloomquist, Michael Flickinger, Larry Stulen and Bob Stulen. Dale Stulen graduated from the University of Minnesota, Darlene Stulen from Moorhead State (Minn.) University and Bryan Nelson from Valley City (N. Dak.) Teachers College.

THE ED SCOTTS RETURN TO BANGLADESH

About this time Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scott and four sons are returning to mission work in Bangladesh under the World Mission Prayer League. They are members of Sunnyside Lutheran Church, Stacy, Minn., Wendell Johnson, pastor. A reception was held in their honor following a recent Sunday morning service. They had been consecrated to their task at the service and Mr. Al Berg of WMPL spoke.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott took some work at Association Free Lutheran Bible School in 1977.

CHURCH IN BADGER TO NOTE ANNIVERSARY

Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Badger, Minn., is making plans to observe its 82nd anniversary on July 22 and 23. Mr. Gustav Nordvall is the lay pastor of the congregation.

Anniversary plates are being prepared for the occasion. The program is in the process of being arranged. Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will be among those attending and taking part.

There will be a banquet on Saturday night and a fellowship dinner following the service on Sunday.

Everyone is welcome.



FORMER LWF PRESIDENT NAMED ARCHBISHOP: Chancellor Mikko Juva of the University of Helsinki has been named archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Finland. The 59-year-old churchman served as president of the Lutheran World Federation from 1970-1977. His appointment to succeed Archbishop Martti Simojoki, who retires next September, was by Finnish President Urho Kekkonen following balloting throughout the church. In the vote, Juva received 208 of the 388 ballots cast. (News Bureau—LCUSA)

editorials

VERBATIM QUOTES

In his book **God in the Dock**, a book of essays on theology and ethics, C. S. Lewis replies that he does not believe that the use of filth and obscenity are necessary to create a situation of realism in contemporary literature. In answering the question put to him he further says that the trend toward obscenity is a sign of a loss of faith in a culture and that moral collapse follows upon that.

Now C. S. Lewis, the great Christian apologist, was writing or speaking as an Englishman. But what he said was true then and it is certainly true in the 1970's in America. The evidences of moral collapse are everywhere.

He was responding to a question about literature. He would have replied in the same way if the question had been put about television or "telly," as the English call it. It's strange why it should be thought necessary to have to use profanity, obscenity, yes, the "four-letter words," to make something believable. No one will deny that life is like that, profane, unfortunately. But it doesn't have to be carried on in our literature and on our TV.

Christians believe that swearing, cursing and filthy words

are wrong. Their sensibilities are offended by them, even though they know that they will be found in a world like ours. They would rather not hear them or read them.

This writer has at least twice written to protest profanity in newspaper columns. In one case, it seems to have done some good. Likely others made their protests known also. This is one thing that can be done. Some editors and producers will pay attention to public opinion.

Like smoking and drinking, cursing and swearing are often signs of "growing up." A strange way of thinking, isn't it? God's law says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." Whoever chooses to take the way of deliberate irreverence flies in the face of a plain commandment. Surely it is a sign of the loss of faith. Surely it is the sign of moral collapse.

Let us warn against this evil. Let us invite people to experience the Lord's forgiveness, for He will forgive also the sin of profaning what is holy, if there is penitence.

THANK YOU, PASTOR GRAY

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., has been our devotional writer for the first half of this year. His final article in the series "Meditation Moments" appears on page 2 of this issue.

Our sincere thanks to you, Pastor Gray, for writing your clear and practical articles. They have been down-to-earth and helpful. It is always amazing how each writer puts things in a little different way, all the time bringing out the great Christian truths.

Why not express your thanks to Pastor Gray for his writings, too.

Now he continues in his busy parish work at Spicer and Willmar. A former secretary of the AFLC and in demand for special meetings in congregations and at Bible camps, he is well known throughout the Association. God bless him in his service.

Our new writer for the second half of the year is Rev. Wesley Langaas of Hampden, N. Dak. An earnest student of the Word, we know that he, too, will have much of value to share with us in the devotional articles. He serves three congregations in northeastern North Dakota and so has much to do.

He is one of our younger pastors, but already well established in the ministry. We look forward to his contributions to the **Ambassador**. May the Lord bless the articles he writes for us.

(Continued from page 4)

available for the presidency beyond this term. I have since taken a call to return to the parish ministry. This then is my last conference as your president. Therefore I have made no new proposals of any import in this report.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president. There have been joyous times, and times of heartache and tension. Through it all God has been good. I have kept a low profile as your president

believing that to be in the best interests of the Association. There have been many inabilities, weaknesses, and mistakes. Basically however, if I were to do it over again, I would make the same decisions and pursue the same course.

I love the AFLC. I ask your forgiveness for my failings as your president. In spite of my lack, you have been most supportive. I trust that the Association will move on to greater usefulness in the sight of God. Thank

you very much for the privilege that has been mine these past soon 16 years. We have a great God, a loving Savior, a patient Holy Spirit, and a fine church. Let us, as our theme suggests, be worthy of our calling.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor John P. Strand

GRAVES ARE INTERNATIONAL

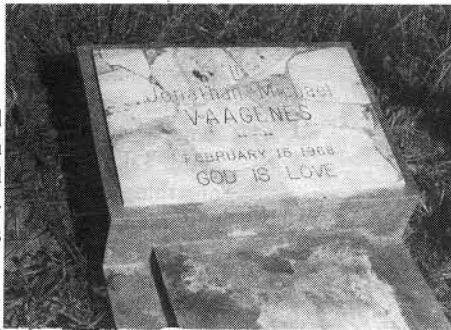
by Roger Ose

On May 4, 1978, Tarkel Ose was laid to rest in the Satersdal Cemetery north of Thief River Falls, Minn. We had received a telegram two days before telling of the time of the memorial services for my father.

That same day 22 people gathered in our home in Bekily, Madagascar, for a memorial service in his honor. The Malagasy pastor shared a series of Scripture passages from the Bible and led those gathered in singing half a dozen funeral hymns. Ten thousand miles away from Thief River Falls a church bell tolled for a farmer in Northern Minnesota. As the Bekily church bell sounded the death knell, this remote Malagasy village learned of a death on another continent, on the other side of the world.

At 5 p.m. that evening, just before sunset, an Indian family came to visit us. They are merchants here who come from Bombay, India. They prayed with us according to the customs of the Moslem faith. For an hour or more they stayed with us, speaking quietly, and offering their sympathies. I was deeply touched by their thoughtfulness in our time of sorrow. They mentioned that several of their family members, including their father, lie buried here in Madagascar.

When Chester Dyrud of rural Thief River Falls died, maybe three years ago, a cable was sent to his son working in



One of the many missionary children's graves in the Ft. Dauphin cemetery.

southwest Brazil. Missionary Connelly Dyrud was able to get an immediate exit visa and he was home in time for his father's funeral. A death in Thief River Falls was known in Campo Mourao Brazil.

The Fort Dauphin cemetery itself is international in character. A grave in this remote corner of the world has a direct relationship to former Thief River Falls residents. For years Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gilbertson owned a grocery store on 8th Street in T.R.F. Mrs. Gilbertson's niece, Hortense Quanbeck (1934-1944), lies buried here in Fort Dauphin. Her father, Pastor Jacob Jerstad, is buried in the missionary section of the Manasoa cemetery here in South Madagascar.

If we include residents of the Fargo area, there are additional ties with graves in Fort Dauphin. Dr. and Mrs. Alf Borge, M.D., of Fargo have a 3-year-old child buried in the missionary section of the Fort Dauphin cemetery. Pastor Oliver Carlson's father is buried



Rows of crosses marking graves of soldiers from Senegal, France and other countries.

here. He is with the Day Star Center in Fargo.

Pastor and Mrs. Carl Vaagenes (Northwood, N. Dak.) and Pastor and Mrs. Milo Gudim (Reynolds, N. Dak.) laid little ones to rest here in Fort Dauphin. There are 20 graves of missionary children here in the Fort Dauphin cemetery.

Another aspect of the international character of the Fort Dauphin cemetery is the rows of crosses marking maybe 50 graves of soldiers. These soldiers from France, Senegal, and other foreign countries, died here. In the Catholic section of the Fort Dauphin cemetery there are graves for 43 priests and sisters from America, France, Spain, Italy, and other countries, who died here. People from maybe 25 different countries are buried here on the hill overlooking the Indian Ocean. They are linked to families living in Peking, Calcutta, Paris, Rome, Zurich, and Thief River Falls, to name only a few. Graves are international.



Kevin Spading, Kirkland, Wash., gave the greeting at the Bible School graduation last month.



Pastor John Strand, left, congratulates James Fugleberg, Roseau, Minn., upon his graduation from seminary. Pastor Amos Dyrud is shown at the right and Pastor Robert Rieth is partially hidden behind Mr. Fugleberg.

Women For Christ

MRS. AASNESS PRESIDED OVER DISTRICT SESSIONS

Zion Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minn., hosted the Spring Rally of the Southwest Central District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, May 2, Ragene Hodnefield, host pastor.

The theme for the day was Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Our theme song was "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." Mrs. Ted Aasness, district president, presided over the sessions. Mrs. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., led in devotions from the Psalms. Mrs. James Formo, Zion, welcomed us from John 15:5. A report was given by Mrs. Milton Erickson, district Cradle-Roll secretary. Bethel Erickson led the singspiration and special music was provided by our district choir, directed by Mrs. Stan Christenson. Mrs. Floyd Johnson presented us with the WMF projects of the month.

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, our WMF president, brought the morning Bible study from our theme verse. She said that we should concentrate on this verse in three main ways: 1) Christ strengthens us for our daily work; 2) Christ will be our strength in special times (such as sickness, danger, trials, death or special services); and 3) God promises to you and me Christ's strength in this life to gain victory over self. If you are a surrendered Christian, nothing can touch you except it come through the

will of God first. Pray for joy in your work load at home. Pray for efficiency and as you work for the Lord, look around you for the needs of others. James 1:22: "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." She challenged us to do our daily work through Christ's strength and we will be liberated from the feeling of being over-burdened and taxed and weary.

A time of prayer fellowship was led by Mrs. Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

Pastor Dale Mellgren brought the afternoon message from Genesis 2:18: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him." The most suitable help a wife can be to her husband is to make him the spiritual leader of their home. God never intended for a woman to take the leadership away from her husband. God has created each for a purpose and if we step outside God's plan, that purpose will never be fulfilled. Pray for your husband what God wants him to be. Be a prayer partner with your husband and share the Word together. You can't be a more fulfilled woman than one who lives each day in submission to the Lord, he said.

At our business meeting, Mrs. Junith Christenson, Fergus Falls, Minn., was re-elected vice-president and Mrs. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn., was re-elected secretary. Offerings were lifted for the Praise Program and the General Fund. A roll call of the

churches in the district was taken.

A delicious noon luncheon and the coffee breaks were served by the Zion Lutheran Church women. A blessed day was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson
Secretary

DRUMMOND CHURCH PLAYED HOST TO WMF MEETING

The Spring Rally of the Women's Missionary Federation, Lake Superior District, was hosted by Drummond Lutheran Church at Drummond, Wisconsin, on Saturday, April 29, with 33 ladies present. The theme for the rally was "Walk Ye in Him," taken from Colossians 2:6.

A warm welcome was extended by Rosamond Lee and we were led in devotions and prayer by Agnes Blaser.

The offering for the day was taken for the General Fund.

Christine Hanson gave a report on youth work progress in the Drummond, Mason, Moland area, with additional comments by Debbie Muska. Bonnie Roberts gave a most interesting Bible study, with "Rules for a Christian Life" as her theme.

There was a unanimous vote for Debbie Muska for vice-president and Rosamond Lee for treasurer.

Rev. Ronald Knutson, host pastor, brought the afternoon message based on Colossians 2:6, in which he stressed that in order to have victory over sin we must first accept Christ, then grow in Christ and walk with Christ. He also told us of the work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and its aims. He talked about the various boards and committees and their responsibilities and functions.

Many hymns were sung and a time of sharing testimonies, poems and readings filled our day.

The 1978 Fall Rally will be hosted by Faith Lutheran Church at Mason, Wisconsin, on the last Saturday in September.

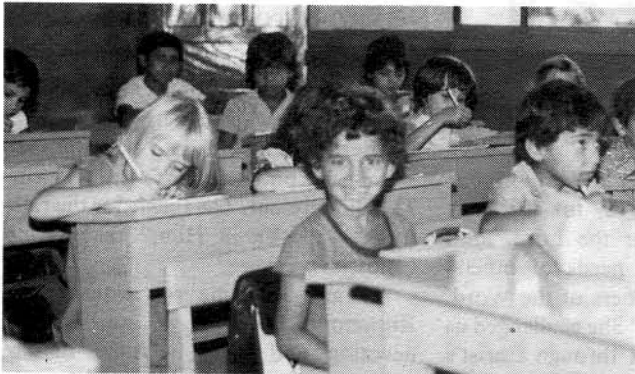
Verona Krohn, Secretary

WORLD MISSIONS

BRAZIL THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

There are many articles written about missionary life and work but what about missionary children? We are going to feature, in this article, the life of missionary children in pictures.



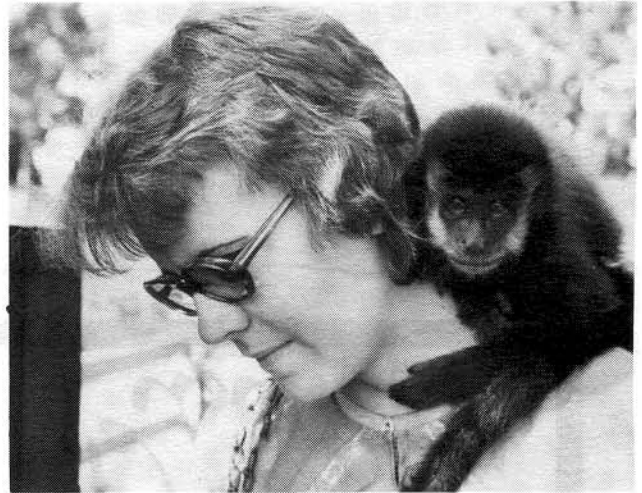
Seven o'clock each morning we arise to have breakfast of coffee mixed with milk, homemade bread and jelly, and a fruit. Then devotions before Mommy takes us to Campo Mourão to Brazilian school. Shannon and Christina study from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Brazilian schools run half days with three shifts a day because of the shortage in classroom space and over abundance of children. The "three Rs" are taught rigorously. By the fourth grade, geometry is being taught. Here is Christina concentrating on her lesson in a Brazilian school.

Mommy picks Shannon and Christy up and brings them home for dinner. Then at two o'clock it's off to American school on the mission compound. Priscilla Wold has been teaching the children, but will be going home on furlough for a year this December. Pray that God would raise up an American school teacher who would dedicate one year for the Lord to come to Brazil and teach the missionary children.



We see Shannon and Christy off to American school on their bikes. Vickie and Chester tag along for the ride.



"HELP!" a monkey on my back." Mrs. Carolyn Dyrud with "Chico."

There are always those rainy days during the school vacation when the children get tired of playing in the house. And there is no TV to help occupy the hours during the rainy season. And Dad is out in the interior working in the churches. That's when Mom gets the feeling she has a monkey on her back.



A birthday party with Brazilian friends, which is always a big event for the children. Shannon is holding Chester and Christy is sitting with her friends.

We want our children to be raised in a natural setting with their Brazilian friends. Outside the home we speak Portuguese, the language of the people. But in our home English is spoken so our children will not lose the English.

While Shannon and Christy are off studying at school, Vickie and Chester are kept busy playing with their pet animals: "Chico," the monkey, two small parrots, two dogs, three puppies and a cat. Plus the sandbox, tricycles and a swing from a tree; all keep the little ones occupied.



"I believe we have a flea here, Chester," says "Chico," the monkey, as Chester tries to take a peek to make sure it's true.



"Smile nice for the picture, Angie," Vickie says, as she tries to get her pet dog in the right position for the camera.



"No, we are not smoking peace pipes. But how would you like to chew a piece of sugar cane with us?" Shannon holding a stalk of cane. (L to R) Christy, Vickie, Shannon and Chester.

Brazil is a big producer of sugar cane, which is used for export. The common folk in the interior run the stalks of sugar cane through rollers turned by horses. The sweet juice can be drunk. If boiled, it makes a hard sugar candy, which is brown sugar and if processed one more step turns to white sugar.



Vickie in the vines! Vickie holding the fruit "maracuja." The fruit called maracuja is a tasty fruit that grows on a vine that makes an excellent shade for car ports, etc.

The fruit can be eaten or made into a refreshing fruit juice. That is supposed to have a mild tranquilizing effect on a person.

The flower it produces is called the "Passion flower," according to the World Book Encyclopedia, "whose elaborate flower parts are said to represent Christ's crucifixion. According to legend, early Roman Catholic missionaries named these plants. They thought the 10 colored petals represented the 10 apostles present at the crucifixion. Inside the flower, colored filaments form a showy crown, which was thought to represent the crown of thorns. The five pollen-bearing anthers suggested Christ's wounds. The divisions of the pistil represented the nails of the cross. The blade-like leaf was symbolic of the spear that pierced His side. The coiling tendrils suggested whips and cords."



Christy under the Papaya tree, testing to see if it's ripe enough to eat. The tree is only two years old, Christy is seven.

The Papaya in Brazil is so common and easy to grow that almost every home has them growing around their house. On the farms they grow in the fields almost like a weed. The fruit is tender and looks like a muskmelon but tastes different. It makes a very good dessert with sugar and cinnamon.



"No, it's not an octopus," says Chester. "I just helped Daddy pull up a mandioca root for dinner."

Mandioca is a famous food in Brazil for the common folk. It is cooked and then fried. It becomes a very tasty dish. If processed, it turns into tapioca, which you have all eaten.

At the Institute grounds some 2000 were planted this year to eat on the campus and feed the pigs that are raised for meat.

This year Brazil suffered a big grain loss. There was no rainy season and the rice crop was lost. Pray much for the poor people as they are really suffering. Our mandioca at the institute is being robbed by the poor, as food is hard to come by.



"Anyone for bananas by the bunches!" Shannon under the banana tree.

Bananas come in large varieties in Brazil. Some can be fried and some can't, some are large and some are small. You can't fool a Brazilian on bananas; some like one type, others another type. On the Institute grounds we are growing banana trees and orange trees, plus a variety of other tropical fruit and vegetables that are not shown in the above photos.

We are trying to make the Bible Institute and Seminary self-sufficient in the area of table needs. Pray much for the students as they labor to produce eats for themselves as the price of food is soaring with an unending inflation.



There is no sound sweeter to hear than the laughter of little children playing together. "All work and no play makes Jack (or Jane) a dull boy (or girl)." L to R, Christy, with head turned, Vickie, Shannon and Chester, with some of their Brazilian friends.

Two of our four children were born in Brazil. And all in all, our children have spent only a year and three months of their lives in the States. As we will have been in Brazil, come next September, ten years, home to our children is Brazil. Their love for their friends, food, culture and church makes it difficult to adjust to Stateside life. It doesn't seem strange for us to hear them plead with us after spending a few weeks in the States, "Mommy and Daddy, when can we go home to Brazil?"

—Connely and Carolyn Dyrud

Life on the Edge of Town



Varia

Since I last wrote, many things have happened. Let me mention some of them briefly.

Some weeks ago I noticed some birds which I'd never seen before on the honeysuckle bush outside one of the office windows. The male had a dullish red on his breast, over his head and on to the back. The female was very sparrow-looking. Through a guidebook on birds I determined that they were red finches. Like tourists, they stopped for a little lunch from the bush and then were on their way again after a few minutes.

The vegetable garden, of course, was put in some time ago. It contains all the usual vegetables and has some strawberries and raspberries given by a farmer friend. I still get a thrill when each variety begins to show in its row. The garden is no showpiece this year even though there will be a harvest, please God. You see, the sod was only plowed up last fall and the grass roots weren't killed and so there is plenty of grass in evidence this summer. Also, the weeds are there and I haven't had the time to keep after them as I should. But the garden is a good diversion from the office work. Interesting, isn't it, how as children we took little delight in the pulling of weeds and hoeing that we had to do, but as grown-ups we find an

enjoyment in these tasks?

It was good to get to attend the graduation exercises at our Bible School and Seminary on May 19. The large crowd gave one the opportunity to greet many friends. The Seminary class was larger than some recent ones and we rejoice in new workers in the church. It may be several years before a graduating class in the Bible School will have as many members as this year. This year's class was of special interest to me as all members were former students of mine. In any graduation ceremony one is touched by the great potential represented in the graduates. Certainly that is true in graduating classes from a seminary and Bible school.

I took in the Memorial Day ceremony in Newfolden. This one was sponsored by the American Legion. You may have been to one put on by another service organization. I always get a little choked up when the colors are advanced on an occasion like this. Out at the cemetery there was the traditional gun salute and the playing of "Taps." There are many white crosses now, representing servicemen who have passed away. Yes, a few of them died in action. More and more of the names are of people I knew. Some patriotic remembrance is good for all of us.

In April we had a visit from relatives

from Norway. This couple, Dr. and Mrs. S. L. Sveinsson, have been in the U.S. twice before. Now retired from his position in biochemistry at the University Hospital in Oslo, Dr. Sveinsson had attended a medical conference in Mexico City on this trip. He is Mother's cousin. We had good visits together, glad for the opportunities that come to maintain the bond of fellowship together. We had a good laugh at the airport in Thief River when they left. Dr. Sveinsson had the most trouble of the 20 or so boarding passengers in getting through the metal detection unit. After numerous attempts the culprit was found, an eyeglass case.

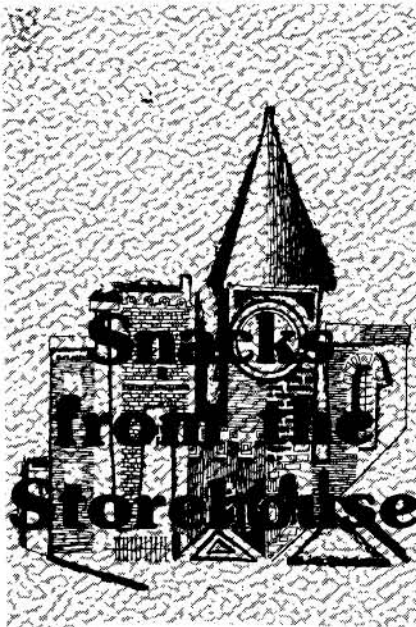
The warmer than usual May wind pressed upon us as we stood in the cemetery of Bethania Church near Newfolden. We were gathered, a large host of us, to pay our last respects to Oscar Brekkestran. I stood looking toward the south, out where the Brekkestrans had lived when they farmed. Ever since Oscar had passed away my thoughts had gone back to the days when we threshed together and three years in a row when I had my runaway on his farm.

Besides Oscar, there was Helmer Lind, for whom I worked, and Conrad Windahl, a brother of Arnold and William. Ordinarily I was a field pitcher, staying out in the field to help each driver load his rack. But occasionally it did happen that I drove a team myself. On this particular day, and I was no more than 17, I was driving Oscar's bronco team. Now Oscar was a gentle man, but his team was a bronco team, very excitable especially around the machine.

Anyway, I was loading my rack for the first or second time when the team began to run. It would be nice if I could report that I heroically jumped in the rack and brought them under control, but I didn't. It's also possible that if I had tried to do more than I did I wouldn't be here to tell about it now. At any rate, after much shouting and arm-waving the men got the team stopped, fortunately without much damage done. I was given another, steadier team to drive the rest of the day, but that was the day of my runaway. These thoughts came back to me as we laid our good friend Oscar to rest.

—Raynard Huglen

W-1
STANLEY HOLMAAS
NEWFOLDEN MN 56738



THE MOUNTAIN OF DEPRESSION

"When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Ps. 61:2). There is a "mountain" in this man's life and his heart is "overwhelmed." This is nothing new, but today we may call it Depression. Most of us have been there at one time or another. Life can really lose its meaning. Situations become a

"mountain" in our way to a life of abundance. We may plead for deliverance but the answer seems so slow in coming, if it comes. What is the solution? Is there an answer? Some are so quick with the solution. They **know** the answer. Heartbreaking answers too often. Answers a depressed person can so well get along without.

Then there are others who in humility try to help and we can learn from them. God doesn't remove symptoms, He wants to get at the cause. Depression, they say, is merely an evidence of some deeper need. Behind depression is always a CAUSE, our real Jericho. That is what has to be dealt with. What could that cause be? Our SELF has been hurt in some way. There may have been an insult, frustration, defeat, at least it looked that way to us. We may take these things with a smile but deep down there is a simmering anger. We feel rejected and hurt. The hurt leads to anger and then to self-pity. It just isn't fair! Here we have the fertile soil out of which depression grows. SELF-PITY! NO. That's not me! That's the normal reaction. That would have been my reaction, too, in the past. But after some real soul-searching in "Combat" I'm inclined to believe with Tim LaHaye in his book, **How to Win**

over Depression, and others.

Yes, we still need the Rock that is "higher than I." He is the only One who has the Answer. But to receive an answer, we don't bring to Him the symptom. We agree with Him in His diagnosis that the real "mountain" in our life isn't depression. The real mountain is that inner reaction of ours to some little "mountain" that has blocked our way. That reaction of anger and self-pity that brought on the depression. And as we humbly confess our sin in that respect, the Answer comes. Praise takes the place of pleading. The sunshine of His love will eradicate the valleys of depression little by little as we accept His forgiveness and cleansing.

Karl G. Berg

PREACHING MISSIONS Newfolden, Minn.

Newfolden Lutheran Parish
Merle Knutson, pastor
July 5-9
Meetings in Village Hall
Rev. Raynard Huglen, speaker