

June 29, 1976

# The Lutheran Ambassador



In Yosemite National Park, California  
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.

Containing Reports from the 1976  
Annual Conference

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## LIVING ON GOD'S WORD

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Notice the little word "every." This means that we are to acquaint ourselves with the whole of God's Word. This is why we are here, and the Word will not only help us through this life, but will prepare us for life in heaven.

There are many people who do not read the Bible at all. Others only nibble at it, reading a verse here and there in a hit-and-miss fashion. Few there are who feed on the whole of God's truth.

So many present-day Bible studies and sermons lead back and forth in the Bible following this same pattern in an attempt to verify some belief. Oftentimes partial truths from various parts of the Bible are taken out of context and patched together making some kind of man-made conclusion, quite apart from what God is saying.

Many such studies (or sermons) do not start with Scripture, but with some problem or issue of our times. The writer or speaker may bring in a few Scripture quotes, often out of context, in an attempt to give support to what he is trying to prove. The authority of Scripture is great-

ly degraded when this is done. Neither does it feed the soul in a satisfying way, but leaves one feeling empty with lingering questions and doubts. Nothing has been settled, and the Lord has not spoken.

Many Bible study groups are studying some Christian book written by man about the Bible instead of studying the Bible itself. The book may be wholesome reading, but it is a poor substitute for Bible study.

The Bible with its many verses can be compared to a large tree with its many twigs. The twigs, like lone verses or portions of Scripture, can be bent by the wind and pressures of this world. But the trunk of the tree, like the Bible in its entirety, does not move or sway when pressured. We are to read each verse in the light of what the Bible says as a whole. In order to do this we must know our Bible.

Let us beware that we do not bring other things into our Bible study time, taking our attention away from God's Word.

Much of the Bible is written in chronological order, fitting into a time pattern. It is divided into books which enables us to study a portion at a time. We should study the Bible as it is written, starting at a given place (possibly with some book of the Bible) and carry on through. This will help us to be systematic, realizing how far we have come, and how we

are to continue.

As we study in this complete way, we will see ourselves and our problems in the light of what we have learned and have taken to heart. We will be able to apply what we learn to our life. The Holy Spirit will help us.

We do not start with a problem, but with the Bible. This method will bring both the problems of life and their solution into light for us, so we can better understand them.

Many are content to have God's Word nearby on a shelf in case of a crisis. They hope to find soul nourishment between its pages as they need it. But it does not work that way. God wills that we store up within our mind and heart the truth of His Word. The Holy Spirit will draw to our attention that word from our heart which we need for the day and for the crisis we face.

The final result will be a mature Christian, usable by God in extending His kingdom on earth.

Does a child tell his mother what his diet should be? Are we, as sinners, to pick from God's Word what verses or portions of Scripture we wish to study? If this were our privilege, we would very likely think only on the promises of God and pay little attention to His commands or warnings.

Gerald F. Mundfrom

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# 14th Annual Conference of the AFLC Now History

The 14th annual conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held at Suomi College, Hancock, Mich., June 9-13. Delegates totaled 262 and they came from 12 states, the largest number being from Minnesota.



Rev. Francis Monseth

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn., a teacher at the Association Schools, was elected vice-president of the church for one year. He thus will occupy, after Oct. 1, the office which was first held by his father, the late Rev. F. B. Monseth. Pastor Monseth was elected after Rev. R. Snipstead, the incumbent, did not get the necessary three-fourths majority on the first ballot. Under church law, he needed that majority because he had served three full consecutive terms.



Rev. Dennis Gray

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., was re-elected secretary for one year.

Rev. John P. Strand, president, is currently still in the first year of a three-year term, his fifth one.

On Thursday night of the confer-

ence, Rev. Elden Nelson, Eugene, Ore., was installed as the first home mission director in the Association. He will take up his new duties on August 15, but he and his wife and their two children will move to the Twin Cities in July. To begin with, Pastor Nelson will also serve as pastor of Victory in Christ Church in St. Paul, a new congregation presently involved in a building program.

In a resolution proposed from the conference floor, a program of house-to-house evangelism in the AFLC was initiated. It calls for training for pastors and lay people and the development of training materials using Lutheran terminology. The program will be worked out by the Commission on Evangelism.

Another significant conference action authorized the Stewardship Board to produce and promote a fundraising program which would bring in \$100,000 within the next two years to help reduce the indebtedness on the Schools. Reaching such a goal would by no means liquidate that debt (consisting of loans from members and friends of the Association), but it would protect the fund balance used to pay interest and pay back loans as they are called in. Associated with the program will be an effort to give greater emphasis to legacies, gifts and annuities as ways in which to aid Association work. The conference did not make clear whether one individual will be named by the Stewardship Board to direct this combined effort, but responsibility was left with the Board concerning this.

A budget of \$382,477 was adopted for 1977-78. This was \$10,797 higher than the one recommended to the conference by the Budget Analysis Committee. The reason for this was that cuts made by the BAC in foreign and home missions were restored by the delegates. Strong pleas were made for restoration and that reasoning prevailed. Even with the increases voted, the new budget is somewhat lower than the one for 1976-77.

As in previous years, the conference voted to suggest to the congregations that they take up a special offering in October for an emergency fund available for pastors and pastors' widows who may be special hardship cases.

An option from the floor by a woman delegate that the president of the Women's Missionary Federation be invited to sit in on all meetings of the Board of Foreign Missions and be notified of all meetings was defeated. But it was done in the knowledge that communication between the WMF and the BFM has improved in the past year and on its own initiative the Mission Corporation has decided to let the WMF president attend meetings once each quarter of both the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. The WMF is a heavy contributor to the budget for all missions.

At the suggestion of Pastor Strand, it was decided that the Commission on Evangelism should offer the names of laymen, too, as evangelists to congregations seeking suggestions for special meetings to augment the services of Rev. David Molstre, AFLC evangelist-youth worker.

The conference encouraged the use of youth teams which will be sent out next year by the Luther League Federation (and Youth Board). It further advocated that the LLF and the Board of World Missions prayerfully consider sending a team of American youth to the mission field in Brazil for summer work.



Rev. Amos Dyrud

On Sunday afternoon two men were ordained into the ministry of the church by Pastor Strand. They are Mauritz E. Lundeen, Brandon, Minn., called to serve the Bagley, Minn., parish, and Ralph M. Rokke, Strandquist, Minn., called to serve the McIntosh-Fosston, Minn., parish. Pastor Strand was assisted by Pastors Kenneth L. Anderson, Francis Monseth, Amos Dyrud, Herbert L. Franz, and Stephen E. Odegaard.



Rev. Stephen E. Odegaard

Mr. Donald Rodvold, music director of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, sang the solo, "Be Thou Faithful."

The third graduate of the seminary this year, Rodger Olson, who will serve the Grafton-Vang, N. Dak., parish, will be ordained at his home church, Zion Lutheran, Tioga, N. Dak., on August 15.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash., preached the sermon at the conference-opening service on Wednesday night. At the WMF festival service on Thursday, the speaker was Pastor David Molstre, McIntosh, Minn. Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., brought the message on Laymen's night, Friday, and Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak.,



Rev. Dale Mellgren

spoke at the youth service on Saturday night. At the holy communion service on Sunday morning, Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., brought the meditation. Rev. Chester Heikkinen, Minneapolis, preached at the morning worship on Sunday. Pastor Strand spoke at the ordination service that afternoon.

The morning prayer hours were led by Rev. Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn.,



Rev. Fred Carlson

on Thursday and Friday, and by Rev. Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens, Wash., on Saturday.

A special guest at the conference was Dr. Everett S. Graffam, executive vice-president of the World Relief Commission, affiliate of the National Association of Evangelicals. He spoke to the conference on Friday afternoon and to the pastors' banquet at Michigan Tech University in Houghton that evening.

At the opening service, Rev. Olaf Rankinen, director of Community Relations for Suomi College, brought a greeting to the conference.

On Saturday an invitation was read from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., that the 1977 Annual Conference be held there. Delegates voted an expression of thanks to the congregation but decided to leave the final decision as to location up to the Co-ordinating Committee. Other invitations to host the conference next year may also be received. This year's conference was hosted by Maranatha Lutheran Church, Chassell, Mich., Dr. J. C. Gerdeen, lay pastor.



## EXCERPTS FROM CONFERENCE REPORTS

### THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). As we meet together in Conference under the theme "A Past to Remember—a Future to Mold," there is one unescapable fact, whether we remember the past or think of the future, our Lord Jesus Christ is a blessed reality for us. How precious He is as our only Savior from all the sins of the past and the present, the Shepherd of the Church today, and One who is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us now and preparing a place for us for all eternity. As we take this "long view" of the past and the future we have much to be grateful for when we know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As we meet in Conference again this year, the 'past we remember and the future we mold' will no doubt be about the recent past and the imminent future. As we make decisions for this generation let us not lose sight of that One who holds the future—Jesus Christ."

### THE DEAN OF THE SEMINARY AND ACTING DEAN OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL

"There is no special merit or profit to change just in order to be like other institutions even though good, as many are. Yes, we want our schools to be academically sound and good, but not to the point where we over-emphasize the academic to the detriment of the spiritual emphasis. If and when changes are to be made, let us prayerfully make certain that we are following God's direction within the framework of Biblical Lutheran teaching and emphasis upon which our schools were established."

### THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"We thank God for His faithfulness unto us. Another school year has become history. It was with some misgivings on our part as to how our Bible School would function without a full-time dean to carry out the respon-

*[Continued on page 10]*

## ELECTIONS BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

#### Vice-President of the AFLC

1-year term

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Secretary

1-year term

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.

### BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED BY CORPORATIONS

#### To the Co-ordinating Committee by the Corporation

5-year terms

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis.

Dr. J. C. Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Other Board members are:

Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVile, N. Dak.

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Clarence Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

#### To the Board of Trustees (Schools) by the Corporation

5-year terms

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.

Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### To the Board of World Missions by the Corporation

5-year term

Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

#### To the Board of Home Missions by the Corporation:

5-year term

Rev. Larry Severson, Wallace, S. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

### BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE CONFERENCE

#### Youth Board

3-year term

Wayne Pederson, St. Paul, Minn.

5-year term

Robert Bilden, Bagley, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Roger Strom, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Commission on Evangelism

5-year term

Rev. Terry Olson, Radcliffe, Ia.

Other Commission members are:

Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich.

Haldor Hegg, McIntosh, Minn.

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

#### Board of Publications and Parish Education

5-year term

Rev. Howard Kjos, Roslyn, S. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Rev. Harold Hosch, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Stewardship Board

5-year term

Norman Olson, Spicer, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Winger, Minn.

Arne Aanestad, Battle Lake, Minn.

Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Rev. Edwin Kjos, Faith, S. Dak.

#### Board of Pensions

4-year term

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn.

5-year term

Rev. Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn.

Melvin Gravggaard, Tioga, N. Dak.

Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

### BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (for 1977)

Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.

John Polley, Winger, Minn.

Norman Lindrus, Ontonagon, Mich.

Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.

Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.

### COLLOQUY COMMITTEE

(for 1977)

Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Rev. E. J. Langness, Ishpeming, Mich.

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Minot, N. Dak.

Rev. Karl Berg, Spokane, Wash.

### ELECTED TO THE MISSION CORPORATION

The following persons were nominated by the 1976 Annual Conference to membership on the Mission Corporation and were subsequently elected by the Corporation to membership.

5-year terms

Rev. Richard Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Melvin Gravggaard, Tioga, N. Dak.

Rev. John Rieth, Kalispell, Mont.

Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minn.

Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

Rev. L. C. Dynneson, Nogales, Ariz.

Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

### ELECTED TO THE SCHOOLS CORPORATION

The following persons were nominated by the 1976 Annual Conference to membership on the Schools Corporation and were subsequently elected by the Corporation to membership.

5-year terms

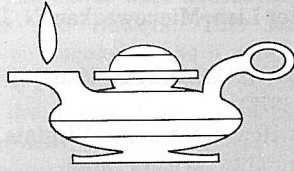
Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVile, N. Dak.

Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## AMBASSADORS IN BUSY SCHEDULE

A six-member Gospel team is traveling in behalf of AFLBS this summer and is using the name of the Ambassadors. The members are Janell Kneeland, Ortle, S. Dak., Lorilee Davidson, Webster, S. Dak., Martha Haugen, Strandquist, Minn., Karen Russum, Grafton, N. Dak., Duane Strand, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Allen Herset, Kila, Mont.

The team assembled on May 26 to begin rehearsals and had early concerts in the Twin Cities area at Rose-dale and Faith Churches in Minneapolis and Victory in Christ Church, St. Paul. Rev. Kenneth Moland or Don Rodvold accompanied the team to these places. They are the faculty directors of the team. Rev. Raynard Huglen joined them for appearances at Sunnyside Lutheran, Stacy, Minn., Section Ten, Cumberland, Wis., Faith, Colfax, Wis., Moland, Mason, Wis., Calvary, Eben Jct., Mich., and the new congregation at Alston, Mich.

The next stop was Hancock, Mich., where the team attended the Annual Conference of the AFLC and sang at all evening services and the Sunday morning worship. There was also time for rehearsals and sightseeing.

Don Rodvold went with the team to the next several concerts en route back to Minneapolis and a rest period: Hope, Ishpeming, Mich., St. Stephen's, Duluth, Minn., Good Shepherd, Virginia, Minn., and St. Paul's, Cloquet, Minn.

The Ambassadors will visit as many congregations as they can before disbanding on about August 27. Right now they are singing at churches in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. They hope to visit the churches on the West Coast sometimes during August. The members will act as counsellors at the Southwest Central Minnesota District Bible Camp near Battle Lake in July.

Watch for local announcements concerning an appearance by the Ambassadors in your community.

Pray for these dedicated young people as they carry the message of Jesus Christ and AFLBS throughout our church this summer.

## AFLBS JOURNAL

The June 1 Ambassador carried a report about the 1976 Choir tour to the East. At Wayne, Pa. (Valley Forge), Mr. and Mrs. Dan Antal hosted the Choir and housed all the girl members in their own home. Today the sad news must be reported that Mr. Antal has since been killed in a private plane crash. Their son Mark is a graduate of AFLBS (1974) and a student at Valley City (N. Dak.) State College. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Since school ended in May, Dawn Lerud '77, has become engaged to Kjell Melvie. Both are from Thief River Falls, Minn. Also, Vonnie Kylo '75, Zumbrota, Minn., has become engaged to Dan Torkelson '77, Wanningo, Minn.

Bob Ordway '77, Centuria, Wis., has been employed at AFLBS for several weeks but is now on a trip to the AFLC

mission field in Brazil with Jon Abel, a former student, and Steve Lee '73. They will be gone about a month.

The next school term at AFLBS will begin on Sept. 13, with an opening service on the 12th. Prospective students should begin the application process now, if they have not already done so. Write: Registrar, AFLBS, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Omitted in the story on the 1976 graduation (June 1) was the honoring of the 500th student to be enrolled at AFLBS. She is Karen Rishovd, McVile, N. Dak., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Rishovd. Karen en-

*[Continued on page 14]*



Part of the AFLBS Choir group approaching the U.S. Capitol. Emil Fossan, their Washington guide, is shown on the left.



Left to right, Janell, Al, Lorilee, Martha, Duane and Karen.

# President's Report

To the congregations of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, and to the fourteenth Annual Conference in session on the campus of Suomi College, Hancock, Michigan, with the Maranatha Free Lutheran Church, Houghton, Michigan, as the host congregation, Dr. James Gerdeen, lay pastor, June 9-13, 1976.

## Grace and Peace!

This is the Bicentennial year of our beloved United States of America. Two hundred years ago events took place that resulted in the formation of our republic. A host of events are planned to mark this anniversary. Because many of the roots of our nation were spiritual, the Christian Church must be active, giving a Christian witness at these observances. Let us make good use of these opportunities.

As we celebrate as a nation, we recognize that something essential is missing. No longer are we, as a nation, a spiritual leader among nations. Others may fear or recognize us for various reasons, but spiritual leadership is no longer in our hands. Our sins of number and magnitude outweigh our moral leadership. When spiritual leadership ceases, all meaningful leadership for lasting peace and liberty becomes suspect. Our leadership is thus weakened or nonexistent. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12a).

While we decry the passing of our great leadership, we must not forget how easily we can become total victims of isms that would destroy our freedoms as we now know them. While danger from foreign attack from without may be real, the greatest danger lies from a slow death from within. This death comes from the unwillingness to make sacrifices and the desire for pleasure and ease. A high standard of living that is not the result of hard work and sacrifice on the part of all who can work becomes an enemy of life, liberty and happi-

ness. With the diminishing of our energy supply, we as a people must be willing to make necessary sacrifices and changes in our life style. When materialism is our god, this becomes extremely hard. When our God and His Word are ignored, decadence destroys.

## The Church's Mission

To the Christian Church has been given the task of calling our nation and world back to God. Those spiritual and moral values once so well recognized among us must again become our distinguishing feature. If the Church fails to call our nation and world back to the God of the Bible, there is no hope. We fear what life will be like in the third century of our nation.

As we speak of the mission of the church, we think not only of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We thank God there are millions of His people in other communions. We do not address these, however. We address ourselves and examine ourselves. We recognize and pray for God's people in other folds. Our examination and planning must basically concern ourselves, however, not others.

## The Motivation

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest message and power of all time. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, true God and true man, lived on earth, died on Calvary's cross an atoning death for our sins, arose victorious over sin, death, and the grave, was seen by hundreds, ascended to heaven, there to prepare a place for His own. He is coming again to forever take His own to their eternal triumph and to separate those who chose Satan and his kingdom to the eternal, unspeakable regret prepared for them. All this is according to the Scriptures. The Gospel calls us to this Christ for salvation and eternal life. God wants all to be saved. Whosoever will may come! Yes, this is the greatest truth of all time.

When freed from sin, guilt and condemnation by faith in Christ, we have the strongest motivation for Christian living. We must love God, love man, and help man in his need, be it

physical or spiritual. Gratitude towards Christ constrains us to do good. No other motivation will do. No other motivation is pleasing to God.

## The AFLC

Because of Scriptural concerns and motivations the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations came into being. There were human fears and doubts, but underlying was a faith in God who appeared to be leading.

We, of the Association, still have strong convictions based on the Scriptures. They are at times challenged. At times suggestions come that we be more pliable and tolerant. We recall the truth that "toleration at the expense of conviction is treason." To our convictions we must be true. These convictions we must teach and propagate.

The congregation (local church) is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth. God has chosen to reach the world with the Gospel through the work of the Christian congregation. The work of the Association as a group of congregations must not dominate over the individual congregation. The Association is not to grow at the expense of the congregation. What is good for the congregation is good for the Association, not vice versa. We must not build institutions and missions of the Association at the expense of the congregation. The individual congregation must come first in all our planning and programming. The Association and all her "arms" must serve our congregations.

The weapon the congregation must use is the Word of God. The Word is the Sword of the Spirit. Christ is the Word become flesh. As Christ was without sin, so the Word is without error. The Word must be the means and method of church work. Men are born anew through the Word of God. The Word must be the central part of all the congregation does. All liturgies, programs and methods must be Word-motivated and Word-centered. All church music must be Word-centered and Word-proclaiming, not entertaining and having a likeness to that which appeals to the flesh and the world; most of today's religious music fails to pass this test.

The world is not won by worldly means, but by the Word of God.

The Word must be preached and taught in a quickening manner that results in the conviction of sin and a seeking for the grace of God in Christ.

We believe in a wholesome Lutheran pietism. We believe that Christians are strangers and pilgrims here on earth. Heaven is their home. The standards of Christian conduct are at a low ebb. "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (II Cor. 5:17). There are social and personal actions accepted today that a generation ago would have caused a scandal. Some are twisting and "re-interpreting" the Word so sin is no longer sinful. Christians must be lovingly different.

There is a wonderful unity for all believers in Christ. This unity cannot be improved upon by man's organizations. This unity overcomes racial, national, synodical and geographical boundaries. Christ prayed that "They may be one, as I and the Father are one." This was not an organizational oneness, a oneness of body, but a deep spiritual oneness.

### Promoting Convictions

Convictions, unless discussed and taught, die. We have much to do in the area of explaining, "Why the Association?"

Our congregations have the initial responsibility in the area of teaching our positions. When our positions are rightly understood they are loved and command good support from most people. Our people should all be able to give eloquent answers to the question, "Why the Association?" These answers should not pertain to failures of others, but to the Scriptural positions that are held by our church.

The Bible School and the seminary have a great responsibility to promote the Association doctrines and practices. Unfortunately, the temptation is real to have academic programs patterned after other schools or to let practices and standards of other institutions determine our methods, instead of that which meets the needs of the AFLC and makes our positions more familiar. A pastoral concern

that each student become grounded in the Word of God and Lutheran doctrine wedded to AFLC polity and piety must be the goal of our schools. The procedure of other institutions must be very secondary.

The Lutheran Ambassador must continue to tell the AFLC positions with greater persistence. This responsibility must not rest with the editor alone, but our members must contribute articles with a teaching concern for publication use. We have a wealth of devotional material in the Ambassador. Some more doctrinal material would be welcome. The present articles on the Augsburg Confession is a very welcome series.

### God Has Blessed

No one can deny that the blessings of God have rested upon our Church. We rejoice in what has been done. We also must ask, "Have we been faithful in the task God has given us?" Faithfulness is much more important than success.

Perhaps the Association could have grown more rapidly in numbers. There is no doubt that if we had minimized our Scriptural Lutheran doctrines our growth would have been more rapid. Some would sacrifice too much for a faster growth. The end does not justify the means in kingdom work nor in anything else. Jesus could have had a large following if He would have entertained the people by magic, jumping off the temple, turning stones into bread, adjusting and accommodating Himself to some of the devil's plans and desires. No, the only right way was the way of the cross, the Truth. That is still true today. Let us not sell truth and buy a kind of success with that which attracts, appeals, entertains or is cheap. The way of God, alone, is eternal.

### Our Field

The particular field of witness for the Association is among Lutheran people. There are many Lutherans who are leaving Lutheran church bodies and joining Reformed communions. There many of them find Gospel preaching. Many still are not happy, however, because they miss the Lutheran liturgy, the Lutheran catechetical instruction and the Lutheran

truths on the Sacraments. Many are willing to travel great distances to find a Lutheran congregation that meets their spiritual needs as Lutherans. Lutheran doctrines and practices are precious and not easily forsaken. The AFLC congregations have golden opportunities to meet the needs of these fellow Lutherans.

The Association congregations will be more effective in drawing those seeking Lutheran fellowship if they are spiritually alive and Lutheran in doctrine and practice. Reformed practices, modes and doctrines will not draw Lutheran people. While the Association does not legislate to our congregations, a liturgy that reflects our Lutheran heritage, such as order of service No. 2 in *The Concordia Hymnal* and the old Suomi or Swedish liturgies is appreciated for the formal worship services. There are those that desire more liturgy than this, but they would recognize that these forms contain all the essential elements of true worship. The Association does encourage a simple order of service. The hymns at the formal worship services should be Word-centered in keeping with Lutheran tradition. Let Luther's Catechism and the Bible History be the center of our Sunday School and confirmation instruction. The Association Sunday School material with its Christ-centered, Lutheran, doctrinal stance can and should be used to good advantage by all the good Sunday School teachers in our Sunday Schools and post-confirmation classes.

The Reformed brethren are being reached with the Gospel by the Reformed Churches. Let us as Lutherans reach out particularly towards those seeking Lutheran fellowship and teaching. This is the largest and most productive field.

(To be continued)

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[Continued from page 5]

Rev. David C. Molstre, McIntosh, Minn.  
Rev. R. Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash.  
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Minot, N. Dak.  
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.  
Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Colfax, Wis.



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# editorials

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## JUST ENDED CONFERENCE WAS GOOD

As we write, the Annual Conference of 1976 is fresh in memory for it ended only yesterday. There are good "vibes" or feelings about it as we think back to the events of those five days in Hancock, Michigan. Oh, we may make some constructive critical comments about the conference in this issue and the next, but generally the impressions are good.

Suomi College was certainly a nice place to hold the conference. The dormitory in which many of us stayed was adjacent to the building housing the auditorium (White Pine Room) and in that one and Wargelin Hall, just beyond, there were adequate rooms in which committees could meet.

The cafeteria was in the dormitory building and that was a very handy feature. Meal costs were rather high there and that fact did send some delegates out to other eating places in the twin Cities of Hancock and Houghton. People staying in camping facilities made some or all of their meals.

To get back to the college, the people there were very good hosts, accommodating and hospitable. The natural setting was just about the most scenic one for any of our conferences, being rivalled only by that of Ferndale, Washington, in 1973. The view across the valley of the Portage Canal was beautiful, but particularly in the early morning and the evening. Weather conditions for the conference were ideal.

The number of delegates at Hancock was beyond the expectation of some. For instance, at the opening business session on Thursday, 191 delegates were registered and by the end 262 had signed in. A year ago in Minneapolis, 254 were enrolled at the first session and 380 by Saturday afternoon. So there was a difference but the geographical representation was good. All of our congregations are never represented at one time, no matter where the conference is held.

Pastor Bruce Dalager of Minot, North Dakota, recently wrote a Letter to the Editor urging greater lay participation in the floor debate at our conferences. Without having kept any record of who took part in Hancock, it would be our guess that the clergy strongly dominated debate in this one, too. What they had to contribute was good, but, with Pastor Dalager, we wish that the lay delegates would have had more say, too.

One visitor at our conference commented on the lack of difference of opinion at the conference. Actually, we think that there is a great deal of similar thinking among us at conferences. At the same time, we hope that there can be open and honest discussion of issues among us and that no one feels that he cannot share his convictions on a matter under consideration.

Thanksgiving for a good conference and good fellowship goes first of all to the Lord. His blessings are evident and abundant. Then, in addition, to expressions of gratitude to the people of Suomi, we give heartfelt thanks to Lay Pastor James Gerdeen, his wife and family, and the good people of Maranatha Lutheran Church, the host congregation, for the good job they did in making the arrangements for the conference and in helping us feel at home. Many thanks and God bless you all.



## THANK YOU, PASTOR MUNDFROM

Another half year has gone by and it is time to change writers of our devotional articles, Meditation Moments, found on page 2 of every issue of the *Ambassador*.

Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., has shared his writing talent during the months of January to June. He has written out of a varied background of experience and we are sure that he has been able, by God's grace, to speak a word of help to someone where others have been unable. Yes, such is often the case for both preachers and writers.

Pastor Mundfrom's articles have been Word-centered, as we want them all to be, and they have also been practical, even as the Word speaks to men's needs and hopes. We pray God's blessing upon him as he continues his ministry of operating a Bible book mission and speaking at individual services or series of meetings as the occasions are presented to him.

Our new writer will be Rev. Frank A. Miller, Boscobel, Wis. He is still a newer pastor in the Association but through annual conferences and other activities is becoming better known in the church. Bearing some physical resemblance to Col. Saunders of Kentucky fried chicken fame, because of his white hair and mustache, he is an approachable man and a man of good wit. He also has a gift for writing and we can all look forward to the spiritual messages he will bring through his articles in Meditation Moments.

Welcome, Pastor Miller, and God bless you in this additional ministry to your pastorate of Hickory Grove and Trinity Churches, Boscobel, in beautiful southwestern Wisconsin.

[Continued from page 4]

sibilities of that office.

We are especially thankful to God for the willingness of our faculty to carry extra responsibility this past year and also to the Dean of the Seminary, Pastor Dyrud, who has been acting dean of our Bible School. Without their cooperation it would have been a difficult year. Thank you, faculty members and staff, for a good year."

#### THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

"It has been my privilege to have served on the Foreign Mission Board since the AFLC began. That is a long time—perhaps too long. As new men have come on the Board it has been good to see the new ideas and fresh approaches they have brought to the problems that come up. So I heartily endorse the two-term (Board) limit. It takes a couple of years to get your feet wet and normally I think one should serve two terms because the second term is usually the most productive. I also hope that as the AFLC grows into new areas and more churches are added, that more time and care will be taken in our nominating and election processes. It's easy to elect the well-known person, but there are many 'quiet' ones who have a real love for a particular area of work and are willing to take the time to serve. A greater effort needs to be made to nominate and elect some of these people. Yes, there are problems and sacrifices to be made when serving on a board, but they are far outweighed by the spiritual rewards and blessings. That I have experienced and I thank you for the privilege."

Robert Knutson

#### THE HOME MISSION BOARD

"If a man has a soul (and he has), and if that soul can be won or lost for eternity (and it can), then the most important thing in the world is to bring that man to Jesus Christ. Friend, that is missions. Oh, it will cost us something to win that soul to Jesus Christ, but think of what it cost Christ to redeem that soul. When the four men took their sick friend to Jesus, in Mark 2, they had to tear up the roof to get him to the Savior.

Someone had to pay for that roof. No one ever comes to Christ unless someone is willing to pay the price in tears, in prayer, in time, and in sacrifice."

#### THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

"I am sure that every pastor in our AFLC preaches evangelistic sermons. I believe that they all are interested in getting people saved; but how about the rest of us; the rank and file of our congregations? Are we burdened for the unsaved in our congregations, and neighborhood? How about Foreign Missions? Are we really concerned, so we give according to our means, that they too might hear about Jesus? I remember as a boy, when we had our family devotions, how Mother would shed tears, when praying for the people in heathen lands, and the missionaries, and she would give all the eggs our chickens laid on Sunday to missions; and I remember she said one time that the chickens laid more eggs on Sunday than any other day of the week."

Trygve F. Dahle

#### THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

"These verses (Deut. 4:7-10) apply today to our nation and people even as they did at the time Moses wrote these words. What wonderful opportunities we have to hear God's Word and to serve Him for the furtherance of His kingdom. Parish Education brings to our thoughts the teaching of the children and youth even if education is not exclusively for the young but for all ages. Moses warned his people to teach their sons that they might teach their children. We are as apt to fall into idol worship and the sins of the world as the Israelites were at the time Moses led them out of Egypt. We, too, see the work of our Lord about us but are so apt to forget and to fall. The desire of this Board is that the teaching aids offered may help keep our people in their faith in Jesus Christ and that they will encourage the reading of God's Word."

#### THE YOUTH BOARD

"It's truly a thrill to see many of our youth turning to Jesus and discovering that only Jesus Christ has

made provision for our sins and is the only one that can satisfy the needs of our hearts.

Our main objective for youth work in the Association must always be that our youth may know Christ and his forgiveness, live Christ and His forgiveness and share the claims of Christ and his forgiveness to those around us."

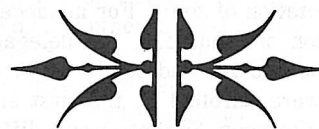
#### THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

"Our bulletin service with an article written by members of the AFLC every other week is well accepted. With about 45 congregations using the bulletins, approximately 6,000 bulletins are used every quarter. Our secretary has written to each contributor of these articles but we would like to now take this opportunity to publicly thank each one who has contributed one or more articles for the bulletin service."



#### PERSONALITIES

Rev. Karl Stendal has resigned as pastor of United Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minn., effective some time this summer. He and his wife will move to the Twin Cities at that time. Pastor Stendal had returned to his work in early May after recovering from a heart attack earlier in the year.



#### MORE CONFERENCE NEWS, PICTURES NEXT TIME

The next issue of the *Ambassador* will contain more news from the 1976 Annual Conference and there will be pictures from the assembly in Hancock, Michigan, too. We hope to have the report on the WMF convention at that time also.

# THE 1976 FOREIGN MISSION TOUR

by Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

## Part III (Conclusion)

After that long and busy Sunday, Feb. 29th, we rested on Monday, March 1st, but about daybreak, Mrs. Dahle was up and she heard a knock at the door. When she opened the door, there was Rev. Shipstead, whom we had left behind at Miami. What a surprise. Then we all got up and came out in the lobby, and we had a very interesting visit, hearing all about his experiences. I will leave it to Pastor Snipstead to tell about his experiences after arriving at Campo Mourao at 3:00 a.m.

After a thanksgiving prayer session, we all went back to sleep, especially Dick, who had not slept for two nights. After the noon meal, we visited the mission grounds and buildings, which by now are quite adequate. The boys' dorm, which was our first building, has been remodeled, and a second story added, and modernized since they acquired that well with good water and plenty of it, which has been piped to all the buildings.

The girls' dorm was their second building, which for a time also housed the Knapp family. It has two stories, with classrooms, an apartment for Priscilla Wold, and washrooms on both floors, etc.

The main building, which is the largest of the three, and is in between the other two, was built a couple of years ago, with the money received from the legacy Manvil Gavik, Greenbush, Minn., willed to foreign missions. This building has a roomy chapel, several classrooms, lavatories, offices, etc., and has now been in use a little over a year. What they need desperately now is a dining room and kitchen, which they hope can be built this year, before the annual conference of the AFLC in Brazil. The restaurant-type kitchen stove and stainless steel kitchen sink, gifts to the Brazil mission from our Women's Missionary Federation, will be adequate in that new kitchen and dining room. They are very handicapped now when they have large gatherings, having only that small kitchen in the boys' dorm. The estimated cost of the new "dining room-kitchen" is about six to seven thou-

sand dollars. Their plan is to add this to the back side of the building, adjoining the chapel. This new addition to the main building will make it quite adequate for larger gatherings.

Our whole property, I have been told, is six acres. We bought three acres and the man we bought it from donated another three. Our campus is concentrated on about a city block and the rest of the ground is used to raise rice, beans and other crops for food for the missionaries and students. All three of our missionary families now have their own houses. All of them are on their own property adjoining the mission property. Our Bible School and Seminary are taught by our missionaries plus Yeddo Gattel and others. There are about 20 students at present in the two schools, mostly men. These students work in the forenoons, on the grounds, doing whatever has to be done. This is to pay for board. There is no charge for room. They go to school in the afternoons, both the Bible students and the seminarians.

Those who want to go to public school go in the evenings. They have to walk wherever they go as there are no transportation facilities. It is quite a struggle for those young people who want an education. In most cases there is no help to get from their homes, but rather the opposite. In some cases, when the young people are saved they are persecuted by their own families and others. In some cases, they sever connections with their homes. Even though tuition is free, there are board and clothes and books, etc. The only work they can get is what we offer them on the grounds. When they come to start school, all the clothes they bring is what they wear. Their rooms are furnished with furniture-beds and mattresses, but sheets and pillowcases, towels and washclothes, quilts, etc., are another matter. The mattresses in the boys dorm need to be replaced. Many of them are only straw mattresses. They would like to put in foam rubber, but they are about \$12.00 each and there is no money in the budget for things like that. That would have to be a special project also. Please

remember these young people, they need our support. Judith Wold, the Executive Secretary for Parish Education, who visited our mission field in 1974, has written explicitly about this situation in the July 1975 issue of the Sunday School News Letter, which I am sure is on file either with your pastor or Sunday School. I would like to suggest that every Sunday School would look up this letter and reemphasize that part of her letter. Or maybe the editor of our *Ambassador* would bring this to our attention in the not too distant future.

Tuesday, March 2nd, we had rain. Everything was dripping wet, but by noon it cleared up so in the afternoon we went out to the Bible Camp. It was their last day. The roads were very rough and slippery, but we had a good man at the wheel, so we got through safely. The grounds were very muddy, so we had to put on rubbers, if we wanted to save our shoes. The camp was very interesting. It was on a small tract of land on a creek which had been dammed up so as to make a little pond, big enough and deep enough for swimming. They also had a diving tower and a bath house. The water was red from the recent rain, but it was warm, so we went in for a swim. However, a shower was almost a "must" before dressing again. They had a good well up the hill, so they had water for all the needs of the camp. There was only one good permanent building, which housed the kitchen and dining room on top floor. Underneath were rooms for about 30 people plus washrooms with showers and an office. It was an octagonal building designed by Pastor Abel and very practical. The old tent, where they held their meetings, was so full of holes that they called it their "holy tent." It is beyond repair, sheds very little rain but shields from the sun. There were about 60 young people in attendance and there were many who needed spiritual help and others who made decisions for the Lord. This day was the highlight of the camp.

They had a banquet that evening and we were guests. They had been busy all afternoon preparing for this occasion, decorating and getting

tables and benches into the dining room. The tables were decorated with candles and flowers. This was a "dress-up" occasion and it was interesting to see these young people coming to the dinner in pairs and seated at the tables. A very delicious dinner was served, consisting of a rice hot dish, roast beef, potato salad, vegetables, French bread, tapioca dessert and a delicious fruit drink. After the meal, a short program was given: short talks and testimonies by the young people, pastors and guests. To hear their testimonies, songs and prayers, although we did not understand them, was very heart-warming. God certainly is working in the hearts and lives of many people there. It reminds us of what Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (I Cor. 16:9). We really need to pray much for our missionaries and the people among whom they are working, that God would honor His Word as it is spoken and lived among them.

Wednesday, Mar. 3rd, we rested and studied while Pastor Dyrud went out to the Camp to dismantle and store the tent and close up the camp. He joined us at noon. We ate all our meals that whole week at the Dyrud's. After dinner we went downtown to visit the markets and do some shopping. There was a new supermarket quite similar to one of our shopping centers in the U.S. It is amazing what has been accomplished also in the business world in these 30 years, from jungle to a city of 50,000 and growing. Among other businesses, we visited a tanning and leather factory, beautiful floor rugs made from local hides of cattle and other animals, also shoe leather, etc. The owner and manager, if I am not entirely mistaken, is a member of our Central Church. We men bought some belts at a special price, which would have retailed at much more. That same evening we attended the mid-week service at the Lar Parana Church, which is located approximately a mile from our Bible School. So there is where most of our students attend. The church was full, in spite of a rainy evening, and they all walked, except we visitors and Pastor Dyrud and the staff. The ser-

vice lasted for an hour and a half. Our hearts were blessed, although we understood very little, as we felt the spirit of the meeting. When they went to prayer, they all knelt, and it was no "painful waiting," as is often the case among us at our prayer meetings. The young and adults, all in the same meeting, all taking part eagerly, which is as it should be. We were much blessed by the enthusiastic participation of old and young.

Thursday, March 4th, we visited the city of Maringa, about 50 miles away on paved road. They started there at the same time that Campo Mourao started about 31 years ago, and it is now a thriving city of 200,000. Pastor Abel said that he looked at Maringa about 25 years ago when he started work in Brazil, but decided on Campo Mourao, as it had no evangelical church work there, while in Maringa there were several evangelicals preaching Christ.

That same evening we attended the Central Church, which is the first and largest congregation of our work in Brazil. Most of the members in this church are a little better situated financially than Lar Parana. They have a larger church, a large Sunday School, and also a day school up to third grade. This is the church of which Missionary Knapp is the pastor at present.

Friday, March 5th, we visited Umuarama, the only church which has a pastor who is a graduate of our Seminary. This church is 70 miles away from Campo, 50 miles rough dirt road, and the rest paved. We have to compliment Pastor Dyrud for his good planning of the week so as to give us the best over all picture of the work being done in Brazil. We visited five of our seven churches. The church in Umuarama is a nice little church, comparable to one of our old country churches for size, with a small parsonage close by, with a roof over the open space between, making a nice breezeway. After visiting the pastor and seeing the church which was nicely painted inside and out we had prayer fellowship and left on our long trip home. We had two flat tires on our way back, the second one just two miles short of our destination, but we made it OK—God answers prayer.

Saturday, March 6th, we rested, studied, washed clothes and started packing for our home trip. Pastor Dyrud also took us men with him on a little visit of the poor homes in the neighborhood, where a number of people lived outside the city limits. We surely saw what it was to be poor, not only temporally, but also spiritually. When we approached a house, Pastor stopped and clapped his hands. This is their way of telling them that they have visitors. (I really enjoyed Mrs. Abel's article some time ago, "A Clap at the Gate.") It was not long till someone appeared at the door. After telling who he was, if they did not know him, he introduced us foreigners. Invariably we were invited in. Of all the homes I have visited in my 53 years in the ministry, these were the poorest. All of them "air-conditioned," that is, all doors and windows were wide open, so no matter what direction the slight breeze was from, it was cool, because the sun could not shine in there. After talking for a little while, Pastor Dyrud would read a portion of Scripture, have a short prayer, give them a tract, and invite them to the Lar Parana Church. We visited six homes like that in one block. The last home was the home of a Christian family who belonged to the Lar Parana Church. They were glad to get the visit and asked us to stay for a cup of coffee. This we dared not refuse, as that would be an insult. If you know what Brazillian coffee is like, you know it was hard to take, but we managed. There were no lawns but bare dirt yards, swept clean of all loose dirt as well as all refuse, swept into the street.

How my heart ached for these people. Souls for whom Jesus died, living in darkness and in most cases dying the same way. Here was real mission work, a good place for the Bible School and Seminary students to practice witnessing. May we pray much for these poor people, and for Brazil in general, and especially for the little corner of the State of Parana God has entrusted to us, that the seed that has been and is being sown there may bear fruit to His honor and glory. May also our gifts to our Mission be accompanied with sincere prayer for their salvation.

Saturday evening is youth night in all our Brazillian churches. This night however, the youth of both our churches in Campo, plus the Bible School students joined together and put on a program in the chapel, in our honor. This program was led by one of their group. There was much singing by the group with two trios by Yeddo and a couple of young ladies. Yeddo also played for all the group singing. Then there were testimonies, in which we visitors also had a part, Pastor Dyrud or Pastor Abel would act as interpreters. Pastor Abel spoke in closing and also closed the meeting, after which a light lunch was served. We want to say a hearty "thank you" to the Dyrud family, Mrs. Hove, Pricilla Wold and all others who had a part in making this week at our Brazillian headquarters a very instructive and pleasant experience. We will not so soon forget this trip.

Now a word to you missionaries: If I have made some statements which need correction, I would be very much pleased if you would correct them. A "thank you" also to Pastor Abel, who so expertly conducted our tour from start to finish. Knowing the language, and culture of the South American people, he saved us much time and embarrassment.

Sunday morning we attended the Sunday School and Bible class in the Central Church. This service was the last on our trip. At 5.00 p.m., we took a bus to Maringa, where we had a three-hour wait till we boarded a "sleeper-bus," in which we rode all night to Sao Paulo. From there we flew to Brizilia, where we had hotel rooms and rested till midnight and then took a Pan Am non-stop plane for Miama, Florida. We left Brazilia at 1:30 a.m., their time, Tuesday Mar. 9th, and arrived in Miami at 6:55 their time. At 8:55, we flew to Minneapolis on a Northwest Orient plane, stopping briefly at Chicago, and landed in Minneapolis at 1:30 p.m. the same day. In all we flew about 12,000 miles, and we thank God for His protection all the way. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

**ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

**BUDGET RECEIPTS**

February 1-May 31, 1976

	Total Budget	Current Burdget	Received in May	Total Received	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 82,600.00	\$ 27,333.32	\$ 4,072.61	\$16,145.76	59	19.5
Schools	128,249.00	42,749.64	4,832.56	21,572.25	50.4	16.8
Home Missions	72,000.00	24,000.00	3,895.23	13,942.73	58	19.3
Foreign Missions	82,800.00	27,600.00	4,965.73	15,157.07	54.9	18.3
Praise Fund	30,000.00	10,000.00	1,777.04	4,448.18	44.5	14.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$395,649.00</b>	<b>\$131,883.00</b>	<b>\$19,543.17</b>	<b>\$71,265.99</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>
1975-1976	\$304,090.00	\$101,363.28	\$16,291.96	\$68,646.03	67.7	22.5



**PLEASED AT CHOIR VISIT**

We were very pleased to have the AFLBS Choir with us at Galilee Lutheran Church of Pasadena, Maryland (in April). A number have commented that they hope the Choir will come again next year. Mr. Don Rodvold was very good and thoughtful in arranging on the spot a quartet to sing J. S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," especially for the pastor's benefit.

Read about my old friend, Rev. Trygve Dahle's tour over the rugged roads in Brazil. We have both served as pastors at LaPorte and Walker, Minn., earlier in our ministries. It is

remarkable how active for the Lord brother Trygve has been and probably will be for many years.

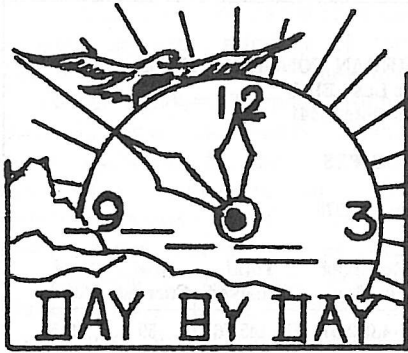
See Rev. John P. Strand's picture in *The Lutheran Ambassador* often. He apparently has discovered the "Fountain of Youth." Looks as young as he did 20 years ago.

Have room for a few more for the Holy Land and Rome 10-day pilgrimage. Leave New York, Oct. 18, 1976, Deo volente. If interested write for a brochure. God bless your good work.

Rev. K. A. Anderson  
500 Sylvview Drive  
Pasadena, Md. 21122

**1977-78 BUDGET FOR THE AFLC AS ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

General Fund	\$72,680.00
Schools	119,452.00
Foreign Missions	85,345.00
Home Missions	75,000.00
Praise Program	30,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$382,477.00</b>



**GOD'S ARITHMETIC**  
By Lars Stalsbroten

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

This is a prayer of Moses. Moses was a man of God, and a man of God is always a man of prayer.

Moses is first praising God for His wonderful protection and care. He says to God, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. Our dwelling place is in God who is unchangeable and everlasting. In the words of the New Testament, it would be: Our life is hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).

What stupendous truth! Who can fathom it?

In the light of this majestic greatness of God, Moses speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life. Our life is like a dream, like grass, like a tale that is told, like a vapor, like a shadow that declines. We have no continuing city here. We are just traveling through.

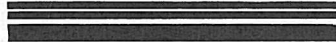
How easily we forget this! Therefore God tells the prophet Isaiah to cry out to everyone, All flesh is grass!

If this truth could be allowed to sink deep into our hearts it would create a real desire to pray the prayer of Moses: Teach us to number our days. This kind of arithmetic can't be learned in high school or college. You need divine instruction to learn it. You will notice it doesn't say: Teach us to number our years, months, weeks, but our days.

You remember the rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21. He had not learned to number his days. He wanted to run his own affairs. He said to his soul, Soul, you have much goods laid up

for many years, eat drink and be merry. He thought he had many years, and he did not even have another day. That very night he died and went into eternity as a fool.

How do you learn this arithmetic, the wisdom that makes you wise unto salvation? You learn it when you, like the publican, cry from a broken heart: God be merciful to me, a sinner! Redeem the time, the days are evil. "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near" (Is. 55:6).



[Continued from page 6]

tered school in the fall of 1975. Thirty-four more students were enrolled by the spring term. She was presented a corsage by Mary Rolf, dean of women.

**FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY  
INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS**

The following official assignments have been made by Free Lutheran Seminary for the summer of 1976 in student internship.

**Marlyn Kruse**—at Stacy-Wyoming, Minn., during June.

**Charles Kvanvig**—student pastor in the Dalton, Minn., parish (presently vacant).

**Marlin Olson**—student pastor on weekends at Faith Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, Minn.

**Jay Eberth**—assisting in the Thief River Falls, Minn., parish, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, pastor.

**James Fugleberg**—student pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minn.

**Larry Haagenson**—assisting in the Spicer-Willmar, Minn., parish, Rev. Dennis Gray, pastor.

**Jerry Holmaas**—assisting at Maranatha Lutheran Church, Chassell, Mich. Dr. J. C. Gerdeen, lay pastor.

**John Koski**—student pastor on weekends at St. John's Lutheran Church, Finlayson, Minn.

**Philip Rokke**—assisting in the McVile-Binford, N. Dak., parish, Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor.

**Ted Kennedy, Jr.**—student pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontonagon, Mich. (vacant).

**Dean Casselton, David Abel, Bill**

**Moberg and Thomas Peterson** are the other seminary students.

**THANK YOU, AFLBS ALUMNI**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the Alumni Scholarship that I received for the school year of 1975-76. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways at Bible School and the financial assistance was very much appreciated. Phil. 1:3-6.

Allen Herset  
Kila, Montana

**FERGUS FALLS CHURCH SITE  
OF WOMEN'S GATHERING**

Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., hosted the Spring Rally of Southwest Central Minnesota District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, May 4. Theme for the day was "If you will humble, pray, seek, turn... God will hear, forgive, heal," based on II Chron. 7:14. "In Times Like These" was the theme song.

The District president, Mrs. Norman Haugen, Sedan, presided over the sessions. Music was provided by ladies from Bethany, Abercrombie, N. Dak. Rev. Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn., conducted the morning Bible Study. He stressed the fact that "revival must begin in God's house. You cannot revive something that is dead."

An offering was received for the General Fund.

Mrs. Harry Rorvig, Dalton, led the afternoon prayer session. Music was provided by ladies from Zion, Willmar. Rev. John Abel challenged us from Matt. 13:44-51, to seek, gain and spread the Good News of the Kingdom. He also challenged us to promote missions in our church—for where there is no challenge, there is no vision nor is there any growth.

The afternoon offering was taken for Cradle Roll/Junior Missions. Mrs. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, led the inspirations and Mrs. Harry Molstre, Fergus Falls, was the accompanist.

There were 158 who registered.

Mrs. Irene G. Torgerson  
Secretary



# NEWS of the Churches

## CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

The home mission congregation in Minot, N. Dak., met several times in January and February to adopt a constitution, choosing the name Bethel Lutheran Church, affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. A charter membership was begun with 28 adults signing. On February 9 the following officers were elected: Valdemar Hovde, president; Ingvald Odland, vice-president; Robert Sorenson, secretary; and Bruce Wolla, treasurer. A Women's Missionary Federation has been organized by the women of the congregation. Rev. Bruce Dalager is the pastor of Bethel, moving to Minot last year from Bagley, Minn.

Since last summer the congregation has held its Sunday School and worship services in a rented Seventh Day Adventist Church. Homes of different members of the congregation have been used as the meeting place for the mid-week Bible study. Attendance at these Bible studies has averaged 20, while the Sunday School averages 35 and the worship service, 55. At a recent meeting, the congregation voted to make an offer to purchase a school in north Minot which would serve as a sanctuary and educational unit.

Eight families of Bethel, including the Dalagers, had to evacuate their

homes during the flood threat this past spring. They experienced a real display of Christ-love as members outside the flood plain spent many hours assisting those who had to move out and opened their homes and garages to receive the evacuated and their possessions.

Between 12,000 and 13,000 people in Minot were forced to leave their homes as a precaution as dikes from eight to 20 feet in height were tested by the swollen Souris or Mouse River. Many people moved their possessions out with them since the failure of a dike would have spilled water between four and 12 feet deep over their homes. The river crested early Easter Sunday morning and fortunately there was no later rise in the waters, in a flood threat which gained national TV news coverage.

Because of the flood threat and the evacuation of church members of Bethel, the proposed visit of the AFLBS Choral Club to Minot on April 12 had to be cancelled. The singing group was able to make arrangements to visit Trinity Lutheran in Minnewaukan, N. Dak., instead. The Minot people were disappointed, too, because the concert could not be held, but most activities scheduled in Minot during the flood threat were cancelled or postponed.

## NEW LIFE

Spring began in November last year,  
Lord,  
when I awoke to a new morning,  
and the joy of living,  
of being,  
overwhelmed me as I prepared for  
school.  
The day before the doctor had said,  
"The tests were fine—there's nothing  
wrong."  
Before they had talked of leukemia,  
and other things  
that could hinder me  
or kill me—  
We had a long talk that night  
about life and death  
and eternal life.

You knew that life was never more  
precious

than when death tried to take it away,  
and You showed me  
how precious my life was to You  
and yet how priceless was  
the condition of my soul.

You showed me that my life was

Yours,  
and eternal life was mine.

You gave me joy  
that I could only have life  
or eternal life—

and that it was all in Your hands.

Then You granted me more earthly  
time.

Since then I've seen days of joy  
and days of pain and sickness,  
blessed days

and days when I was "too busy"  
to listen to You.

I've learned more of myself

and my need for grace,  
and more of Your plans for me,  
how You would have me serve You.

It's been good, Lord,  
to live as Your child.

And I pray for tomorrow,  
that You would make me more open  
to You,

submissive to Your best will,  
walking in Your light—

that I might glorify You

with the new life You've given.

—Dorothy Seaman  
Kirkland, Wash.

### CTCR APPROVES PLANS FOR SYNOD-WIDE STUDY, HEARS REPORTS REGARDING CHURCH RELATIONS

ST. LOUIS—Plans for The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's far-reaching biblical and confessional study, "That We May Grow," were approved in principle at a recent meeting of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations. The CTCR is acting in a coordinating role for the three-year effort that involves at the planning and implementation stages the Synod's various program boards and commissions, along with its auxiliaries.

The study program, called for by the 1975 convention of the LCMS in Resolution 3-01 ("To Seek Unity"), as a major step toward achieving doctrinal harmony in the Synod, includes Biblical and confessional studies for both adults and youth, a theologians' convocation in fall, 1977, and regional pastors' and teachers' conferences the following spring. President J. A. O. Preus has been asked to designate "That We May Grow" as the theme of the 1977 LCMS convention, when the program is scheduled to begin.

Since last October, the CTCR has worked closely with the various program and auxiliary agencies of the Synod in planning the study program.

The CTCR devoted considerable time and attention at the meeting to its responsibilities in the area of church relations, hearing from the president of the India Evangelical Lutheran church and three students involved in the CTCR-sponsored exchange study program.

### LUTHERAN COUNCIL TO HOLD 11TH MEETING IN NEW YORK

New York—(LC)—The Lutheran

Council in the USA will return to New York City for its 11th annual meeting next year after holding its last three sessions in St. Louis, Minneapolis and Philadelphia.

The meeting is scheduled for March 10-11, with the location to be determined at a later date.

Under the bylaws of the Lutheran Council, its annual meeting must be held in the city of the council's principal office, namely New York, unless otherwise specified at a previous annual meeting or by the executive committee.

The LC/USA's constituting convention was held in Cleveland in November of 1966, no session was held in 1967 and the next four meetings took place in New York City, 1968-71.

The council met in Minneapolis in 1972 and 1975, in New York in 1973, in St. Louis in 1974 and in Philadelphia in 1976.

It is proposed by the executive committee that the council meet in St. Louis in 1978 and in Minneapolis in 1979.

Currently, the three church bodies participating in the cooperative agency—Lutheran Church in America, American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—have a total of 41 representatives to the council's annual meeting.

### THREE STAFF MEMBERS LEAVE LUTHERAN COUNCIL DIVISION

New York—(LC)—Three staff members of the Lutheran Council in the USA's Division of Mission and Ministry are leaving the employ of the cooperative agency.

They are the Rev. Levon Spath, sec-

retary for Latin American Publications; the Rev. Byron Schmid, director for social study and planning and consultant for national immigration policy, and the Rev. Robert Eledge, director of resettlement services for the Department of Immigration and Refugee Services.

Mr. Spath, a Lutheran Church in America clergyman, was a missionary to Argentina and Chile before joining the former National Lutheran-Council staff in 1965. He has been head of Publicaciones El Escudo, an inter-Lutheran organization promoting the publication of Christian material in Spanish. He has not disclosed his future plans.

Dr. Schmid has accepted a call to be pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He joined the Lutheran Council staff in 1973 as director for social study and planning and later became consultant for national immigration policy. The AFLC clergyman was formerly an assistant professor at Moorhead (Minn.) State College and has also taught at Concordia College there, an ALC school.

Mr. Eledge has accepted a call to Holy Trinity Lutheran church, Land O'Lakes, Florida. Formerly a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastor in Tampa, he directed Lutheran Council activities at the Fort Chaffee (Ark.) refugee resettlement camp before coming to the Council's New York office last fall.