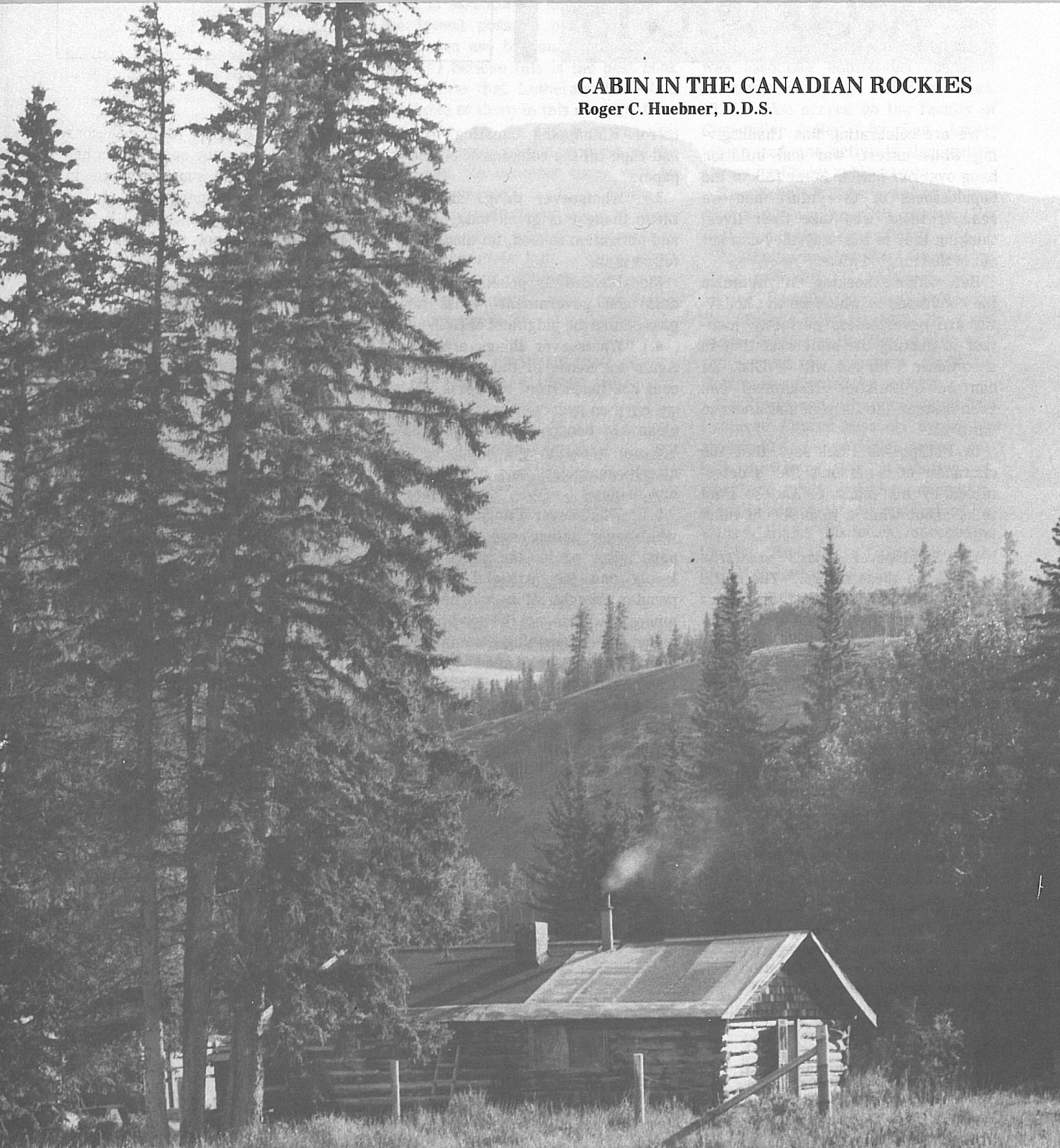


November 15, 1977

# The Lutheran Ambassador

**CABIN IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES**

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



# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## Pessimism Forbidden

Phil. 4:8

We are celebrating this Thanksgiving while unrest, war and inflation hang over our nation. Some talk of the hopelessness of the future and we read of those who take their lives, thinking that in this way they can get out of this tangled mess.

But without seeking to minimize the conditions in which we live today we are nevertheless perfectly justified in making the statement that in accordance with the will of God, we can be optimistic. Pessimism can even assume the form of sinfulness in our lives.

In Philippians Paul says that the character of a person's life is determined by his thinking. And so Paul talks about what a man should think on.

1.) "Whatsoever things are true ... think on these things." The world has not been thinking on these things that are true and lasting and unchanging. The thinking of the world has been materialistic. And so the god of gold in which the world trusts fails and man despairs.

2.) "Whatsoever things are honest." Again, man's thinking has been on directly opposite lines. Reverence for law and order has broken down. Respect and fear for God have almost passed out of existence.

As a result we live in a world of

terror. Kidnapping, cheating, murder and rape fill the columns of our newspapers.

3.) "Whatsoever things are just." Little thought is given today to duty and obligation to God, let alone to our fellow man.

Moral codes as practiced in business and government would never pass before the judgment of God.

4.) "Whatsoever things are pure." Again the sense of the pure and decent has faded from the earth. Today we have an overemphasis on sex. The clean and honorable are out of date. We are a nation which has become utterly shameless and has forgotten how to blush.

5.) "Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report." But again, the ugly, the unlovely and the artificial preoccupy popular thought. It is bad news that makes headlines, not the good.

And so everything seems to be going wrong. The Second World War was to end all wars, education was going to cure all, science was to conquer all evils.

And yet with all this we must maintain that spirit of optimism. God wants to see this in the Christian heart and life.

We are to think of things true. This God whom our age has forgotten, He

is alive and will never fail us. Seasons regularly change, the earth yields her increase, rain and sunshine come in due proportion, productivity of the soil has not been withdrawn.

Our nation is not poor. We have enough autos in the U.S. to seat the entire population at one time. We have less than one-seventh of the population, but possess about one-third of the world's wealth.

God's Word has remained firm and unshakable; His love has never been withdrawn. Promises still stand. God's plan of salvation is still being announced to a lost world.

Paul says we must think on things that are lasting, true, happy, lovely, beautiful. And our acts will be in accordance with these things.

The church has a tremendous task to perform in these days. It must be approached with optimism. We must show that God lives, that His help is certain, and that happiness and fulfillment can be ours.

This Thanksgiving, let us rejoice first of all in our salvation (I trust we can do this). Let us work optimistically because Christ is our partner. The world is not lost as long as Christ is in the world. Let us be about our Father's business and be thankful that God is everything we need.

—David Molstre

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# Tempted and Tried: Yet Thankful

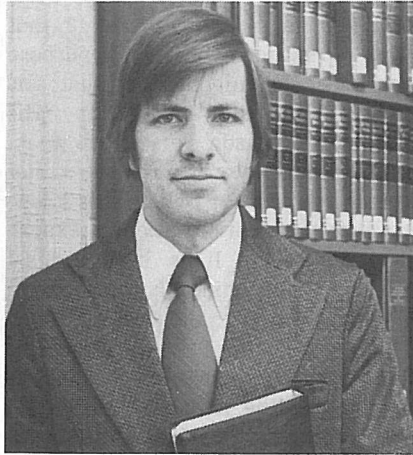
by Mr. Charles Kvanvig, Minneapolis, Minn.

This holiday that we are celebrating can truly be a time of thanksgiving only as we realize that God is in control of ALL of our affairs for His glory, even our trials.

At various times in our lives we find ourselves at the end of our rope, feeling that we cannot take any more of the trials that come our way. Perhaps it has been sickness or death in the family, loss of job, an argument with a friend or family member, or a multitude of other things that we allow to overshadow the blessings of the Christian life. The joy and thankfulness slips away and we experience momentarily a low ebb in our walk with the Lord. The next question we ask is, "Why, O Lord, is this happening to me?", and we like David of old cry out, "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation."

These troubles and trials will come to each person. Some people have deeper waters that they must pass through, more perilous times, greater disappointments, and so on; nevertheless, God in His power and love even uses these trying times to His honor and glory. To realize this is truly a thought and fact to ponder on and greatly rejoice in. God can take the evil things of this world and use them for His purposes. In the case of Joseph, we see that his brothers sought to do away with him and consequently he was sold into slavery in Egypt. Now his brothers meant to do evil to him but God used it to His glory by saving His people through the person of Joseph. Paul says in II Corinthians 4:17 that this affliction is but for a moment, yet the fruit of it can be exceedingly great on the other side of the grave. James says in 1:3 that we ought to be thankful when troubles and temptations come our way because they produce the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Again, he says in 1:12 that the man



Mr. Charles Kvanvig

who by the grace of God endures the temptations is blessed indeed and is promised the crown of life. Paul brings this further still, in Romans 8:28, by stating that not some of these trials are fruitful for the Lord and for the person involved, but "that ALL things work together for good to them that love God" and are "called according to His purpose." That means that everything that comes our way, whether good or bad, hard or easy, joyful or disappointing, can be used of God in a mighty way so as to accomplish His will.

The God who created and still sustains the entire universe can and does watch over the affairs of the people for whom He gave his life. Being confident of this fact, then, that with God nothing happens to us by accident (not even a sparrow falls to the ground without His knowledge, Matt. 10:29) we can then have a constantly thankful disposition regardless of the circumstances that come upon us. The way that God uses these events and situations may then be viewed with praise and thanksgiving to God, knowing that it is to His glory that these are allowed in our lives.

As we look at the matter of trials and temptations in the light of God's purposes, we can see by example and by promise that God delights to bring about spiritual awareness and maturity through them. We can examine this work of God with three general purposes in mind. First, God can use these to bring about the salvation of an individual; secondly, it works toward bringing one to repentance; and thirdly, trials come to bring about a greater sanctified life, better equipped for God's service.

## SALVATION

Many a person who has traveled the road of adversity has found peace with God through his experience. In Luke 15, we read the account of the Prodigal Son who was found feeding pigs while he himself had to go hungry. In his wantonness, he discovered where real pleasure and real treasure actually were, in the house of his father. Likewise, one who is experiencing want today, whether it is physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, or some other need, it is only in the Father's house that that need can be filled. I recall a man from my home town who was found to have cancer. Though this man was religious, he had never personally received Christ, but it was through this calamity that he saw his sin and was soundly converted and became a witness for his Lord until the day he died.

In the Book of Genesis we read of Cain and his encounter with God. He did not allow the conviction of sin to move him to repentance and thus turned his back on God for all eternity. While there are literally millions who are still living like Cain without repentance and faith, praise God, there are many who like the Prodigal Son are finding their way back to Him and

are saved. Therefore, even in the midst of trials, we can in conviction and joy sing the words of the chorus:

“Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul;

Thank You, Lord, for making me whole;

Thank You, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free.”

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift” (II Cor. 9:15). Truly, it can be said that each day that we have Christ dwelling within us can be a day of Thanksgiving.

#### REPENTANCE

David had a period of testing but for a different purpose (II Sam. 11, 12). He already had faith in God alone for salvation, yet he had sinned. God allowed hard times to come into his life (Pss. 51, 32) in order to move him to true repentance. The moment that he did repent, God was more than willing to forgive and to forget. Our sins may or may not be as gross and open as David's but disobedience in any degree is sin and sin separates from God (Is. 59:2). When fellowship has been lost with God, it is not God who has broken it. His promise nevertheless remains the same, that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.” Many a soul has experienced renewed fellowship with God because God in His love and tenderness has gently brought distress and trials into his life to bring about repentance, as in David's case. The psalmist declares, in Psalm 119:71, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes.” Again, in vs. 67, he says, “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy word.” Going again to our hymnbook, we sing the words:

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee;  
I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.”

Truly, this is God's heartfelt desire and purpose in leading (He goes before) us through deep waters. Thus we

can bow our hearts to God in reverence and fear and thank Him for the testings that He allows.

#### SANCTIFICATION

Not only do the fires of affliction come upon us to work toward salvation or to work toward repentance, but they are also allowed so that the work of sanctification and preparation for greater service can be ours. We read in II Corinthians 12 that Paul experienced this. God's purpose was that He might show that His grace was sufficient, for His “strength is made perfect in weakness.” Paul says in Romans 5 that we can glory in our tribulations knowing that that works patience, experience and hope. It is in this blast furnace of affliction that the dross, the unnecessary, the worldly, the fleshly part of us is burned away so that Jesus only can more readily be seen in us. The process of being set apart unto God is life-long and difficult. The old nature clings so tightly to us and we the same to it. Thanks be to God, who alone can free us from it. Space does not allow us to mention all the storms that Peter had to weather, but we know that because of them, he became a man who was used greatly of God to proclaim His message to the world. Oftentimes the tribulation that we know may be for the purpose of understanding the hurts that another is feeling (II Cor. 1:4).

Regardless, then, as to the reason for the trials and testings, we can know and be assured that they have a perfect and a divine purpose and in this we can rejoice. It would do us well, then, to take the words of I Thessalonians 5:18 to heart and “in every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” What a joy is ours when we know in our hearts that this disposition can be a reality in our lives by the grace of God and then purpose in our hearts to give God the glory and thanks. This holiday, then, that we are celebrating, can truly be a time of thanksgiving only as we realize that God is in control of all of our affairs for His glory, even our trials. “Thanks to God for my Redeemer; thanks through all eternity.”

#### FURNISHED APARTMENT AVAILABLE

If you are a single couple wishing to spend the winter months in the Minneapolis area you might be interested in the following opportunity:

A furnished apartment, including utilities, located in the beautiful Minnetonka suburb on the west side of Minneapolis. There are two bedrooms, bath, kitchen, and living room. The bedrooms and living room are carpeted. There is a big hi-fi and an electronic organ, as well as a fireplace in the living room.

The apartment is available at once and may be occupied until May 1. The rent is reasonable.

If interested call (612) 474-2751, or write to David Stendal, 19155 Manchester, Minnetonka, Minn. 55343.



#### THANK YOU, GOD!

Thank You, God, for days of joy  
When sunshine fills each hour,  
When gratitude swells in my heart  
And I rest in Your power.

Thank You, God, for faith You give  
That I might daily live  
The life you have prepared for me,  
So full, so rich, so free.

Thank You, God, for filling me  
With Your great and tender love,  
For only as You dwell within  
Can love flow from above.

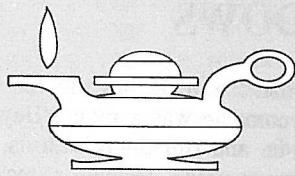
Thank You, God, for restful peace,  
Your gift so freely given  
To me, the least of earthly folk,  
Whose sins have been forgiven.

Oh, God, how merciful and kind,  
To care for folks like me,  
Who deserve but death and agony,  
Yet You gave all for me.

Mabel Quanbeck  
McVile, N. Dak.







# SCHOOL NEWS

## NURSING HOME VISITATION

Proverbs 2:10

“For wisdom will enter your heart,  
And knowledge will be pleasant to  
your soul.”

As we are in the midst of our first quarter of school, I am reminded how God will use our knowledge gained here to increase wisdom in our hearts for future use.

Our knowledge was put to a test as we faced our mid-quarter exams. It is rewarding to delve into the Word for new truths to be applied to our daily lives.

As we gain wisdom, we are taught to share it with others. Opportunities rise for each student to be a part of a team of 12-15 members which makes regular visits to area nursing homes. God truly blesses us in this ministry.

In entering a nursing home, we are greeted by a group of people who seem curious as to why we are there. But as singing and sharing of God's Word are begun, some of these faces light up. After a formal time of sharing, we visit with these people. Special attention to each one makes their eyes shine and makes our hearts warm as we share the Gospel with someone.

It is God who has given us this opportunity. May we faithfully proclaim His wisdom as we grow in fear and knowledge of Him.

—Candi Weinkauf

## SEMINARIANS' RETREAT

Our AFLTS seminarians backed away from their studies on Tuesday, October 18, in order to share a few

hours of testimonies, games, food and fellowship. Silver Lake Camp was again the scene, where outdoor atmosphere is available only minutes from our campus.

The senior class planned the games and invited the guest speaker. The games ranged from a highly active balloon-bust free-for-all to a brain-buster quiz. Phil Rokke ran away with honors in every category.

The guest speaker, Jack Aamot, shared from his witnessing and Bible teaching ministries. He discussed what should be a Christian pastor's real concerns. We are to be “player-coaches” by equipping the saints by sharing Jesus Christ from Scripture and our own experiences. We must go where the “fish” are.

Pastors should relegate self-serving desires and activities to their proper place in order to present Jesus Christ and experience true Christian liberty.

On Wednesday noon we left the campground physically and spiritually refreshed, happy to return to our families and studies.

—John Koski

## SEMINARY NOTES

January 4th marks the beginning of the 1978 Inter-term. Rev. Francis Monseth will be teaching Christology from January 4-17. Rev. Robert Lee of Valley City, N. Dak., will conduct a seminar in Church History from January 23-27.

The annual pastors' conference is scheduled to begin the evening of January 17. The time of inspirational lectures and fellowship will conclude on January 19.

AFLTS students will be taught by three additional teachers during spring semester (January 31-May 19). AFLBS New Testament instructor, Rev. Philip Haugen, will teach Greek I. Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., will teach Youth Work, and Christian Education will be led by Rev. Richard Anderson of Minneapolis.

Twelve men will participate in the internship program in the summer of '78. If your congregation is interested in obtaining an intern, please contact the Dean of AFLTS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.



GUITAR LESSON

Bethany Kvanvig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kvanvig, takes advantage of being the Dean of Men's daughter and gets a guitar lesson from Kent Bakken, Roseau, Minn. The presence of Bethany in the hall often means there are fresh cookies or even apple pie generously shared by Mrs. Kvanvig.

## ROYAL LEESON IN THE SHADOWS

If Royal Leeson hadn't met his old army captain in Peoria, Illinois, in 1924, he wouldn't have had cash enough to get to Chicago. And if he hadn't gotten there, he might not have—. But that's the story.

Twenty-five-year-old Royal ambled down the main street of Peoria. His face was sunburned and dirty, and one coat sleeve was ripped at the elbow. He viewed the blonde coming toward him.

"Excuse me, lady. I'm a stranger in Peoria and I'm awful hungry. Could you let me have a—?" The blonde went by fast, as close to the edge of the sidewalk as she could walk. "O.K., O.K., Cutie, forget it."

A man in uniform turned the corner. Royal stopped in front of him. He felt good when he was putting the touch on an officer. After all, he'd been an army man.

"Oh, Mister, could you spare a dime for a bite to eat?"

"Sure you want it for food, Buddy?" the officer asked.

"Yeah, I—" Royal broke off. Can a guy you've known years ago drop from the blue onto a street in Peoria, Illinois? This one had. "Captain, Captain Stacey."

The man in the uniform started. "Why, it's Royal Leeson. What are you doing here, Leeson?"

"What does it look like, Captain?" He wasn't the mayor of Peoria and he wasn't out walking his best girl on Sunday afternoon.

"Are you out of a job?" There was concern in the Captain's voice.

"Sure," Royal blustered. "But just temporarily." No use letting a guy's sympathy stall you. Money, not sympathy—that's what he wanted.

"Look, could you let me have a buck, Captain Stacey? That's all I need to get something to eat and push on to Chicago."

"Well, sure, Leeson." The Captain unfolded his leather wallet. He held the dollar in his hand for a second. "You've got something to do when you get to Chicago?" he asked.

Royal's hand reached for the dollar. "Sure, sure, I always do fine in Chicago. Now how about it, Captain? Thanks."

Royal caught the next bus to Chicago. He stared moodily out at the flat Illinois fields. When you run into a guy out of the past like that, your mind starts spinning around and around, playing records of a lot of life you thought you'd forgotten, and want to forget.

There was his year in the army. And before that, his father and his mother and home.

He hadn't always been as now. But his breaks had been bad from the beginning.

Like school—he hadn't wanted to go to school at all. Until he was ten, his dad was fed up. "No more of this fooling around, young man. You'll go back to school tomorrow or you'll wear the stripes from not going for a month."

"Aw, no, Dad," Royal pleaded. "I'm taller than any guy in that old first grade. I stick 'way up in my seat over anybody else."

"I can't help it if you're older than the other kids. It's your own fault for not starting sooner. Go on upstairs and go to bed and be down for breakfast on time. Or you'll get such a licking you won't be able to sit down at all."

He had a rough time in school. Principal Deavers caught him smoking on the playground. "One more time and you'll be expelled," Deavers warned him. "And the little Johnson girl says you've been using profane language at recess." Deavers tapped his desk with a pencil. "Is this true?"

"Let her keep her nasty little old mouth shut," Royal retorted.

"You might try doing the same, Royal. One more offense, missing school, smoking or swearing, and you will be expelled. You're still just a little boy in the second grade, you know, even if you are twelve years old."

But Deavers had been all wrong.

He wasn't a little boy. In his dad's pool room, he was a man. "Hey, lad, come on and roll them with us," the customers said. "Penny a toss and have a cigarette for luck. The way you handle that weed, nobody would ever guess you're just twelve."

There was no feeling of being a big dumb ox in the pool room. In a way, he didn't mind getting caught at that crapgame in the sixth grade cloakroom. That settled any question about going back to school.

Getting thrown out of school was a big relief in one way. But after that, he wanted to prove he was good for something. So he left home. He proved at 16 he could do a man's job on the road, swinging a shovel.

The record still spun around. Now it was his year in the army. He saw just enough of the country to want to see more. After that, he had the roaming blues. Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis—.

The bus was rumbling through Chicago's South Side. Royal scrubbed at the dirty window with his coat sleeve, but he saw nothing but rows of tenements so alike they looked like children from an orphanage out in their afternoon best.

Chicago was as good as any other city, and as bad. He had slept in jails and on doorsteps in all of them; rolled his dice and picked up his cash with odd jobs from coast to coast.

"Last stop," the bus driver yelled.

Sure, Chicago would do for a while. The stew's no greasier in the 25-cent restaurants than in any other U.S. city, he figured. He wasn't sentimental about any of them.

Royal landed on West Madison right away. For two days he worked in a restaurant ladling out greasy stew and got paid four dollars. Then he got "roaring" drunk.

When he woke up, he was lying on the cement floor in a cell in the Des Plaines police station. Scattered on the floor were several dozen other drunks from the night before.

(Continued on page 10)

# Women For Christ

## A SUGGESTED BIBLE STUDY FOR DECEMBER WMF MEETINGS

### Our Sufficiency Is of God II Corinthians 3:5

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God."

A. **Our Deficiency**—It is a reality that echoes in the words of—

1. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 17:9)
2. Isaiah (Isaiah 1:6)
3. David (Psalm 51:4)
4. Jesus (John 15:5c)
5. Paul (Romans 7:15, 18)

B. **God's Sufficiency**—It is a reality because in Christ He grants—

1. Assurance of forgiveness and position

I John 1:9

Galatians 4:4-7

II Timothy 1:12

2. Eternal Life

I John 5:11-13

3. Comfort, Companionship

John 15:5-7

John 14:23

Isaiah 41:10

4. Provisions

Philippians 4:19

II Corinthians 9:8

5. Energy

John 15:5

Colossians 1:29

Philippians 2:12-13

Given by Miss Eula Mae Swenson,  
Fargo, N. Dak., at the WMF  
Convention in June.

## WILTON CHURCH SCENE OF RALLY

The North Central Minnesota District fall rally was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilton, on October 1. Mrs. Ed Mathison of Bagley, our district vice-president, presided. The theme was "Let us labor for the Master," based on I Corinthians 15:58, with the theme song, "Give of Your Best to the Master."

Devotions were given by Martha Larson of Shevlin, reading Mark 16:9-15, followed by the welcome by Mrs. Clifford Ness of Wilton.

The Bible study was led by Mrs. Beverly Enderlein, national WMF president. What is the Work of God? What am I really supposed to do? What is the challenge for you and me? What should my response be? We should make a commitment to God and work for God. There needs to be time for solitude with God, a time for quietness. We have to learn to yield our thoughts to the Lord. Our first priority is to love and enjoy God. If this is done the second priority, of service to and work for Him, will come. We need to inwardly adore and love Him in whatever we do. If God has stirred you to teach or take an officer's job you have to trust God and He will lead. He will meet you in His place of service. Now is the time to serve God, to be fervent in service. If God is put first He will show the way and the reward will be great. Let us love Him. He will give us energy and strength to keep on.

Music was shared by Mrs. Ray Persson and Mrs. Wm. Goodman of Bemidji. The offering taken was given to the Praise and Debt Programs.

The afternoon session began with a singspiration led by Carol Synsteli. Prayer time was led by Mrs. Gordon Johnson of Bagley, sharing "What is Prayer?" We were favored by music by Mt. Carmel's Trio: Mrs. Lorraine Brekke, Mrs. Kathi Rokke and Mrs. Marvie Johnson, all of McIntosh. A skit of talks by the Maple Bay ladies was given on "Labour for the Master" through: prayer, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, in home and community, in missions, and in money.

Let us remember that we are to bring all things to God in prayer. Thank God for all things, especially for answering prayer. Go in faith. He will meet our needs. We are to give of our gifts, money and ourselves. Live for Him. Show love for others. Share. God is the Giver of all things. Don't leave Christ out of your work and decisions. Mrs. Kathi Rokke closed with prayer.

Mrs. Jerome Voxland  
Secretary

## FALL CONVENTION HELD NEAR MASON, WISCONSIN

The fall rally of the Lake Superior District Women's Missionary Federation was hosted by Moland Lutheran Church, rural Mason, Wisconsin, on Saturday, September 24, with 35 ladies attending. The theme for the rally was "Steadfastness," using I Cor. 15:58 as a Bible reference.

Following a welcome by Bonnie Roberts, we were lead in devotions by Ann Elletson.

An election of officers was held with the following being elected:

President—Rachael Tuura

Vice President—Harrietta Quist

Treasurer—Ann Elletson

Cradle Roll Secretary—Elma Jarvi

An offering was received for Church Extension.

Christine Hanson, Harrietta Quist and Brigetta Nelson favored us with two songs, "My God and I" and "Even So, Lord Jesus, Come."

Ellie (Mrs. Ronald) Knutson

[Continued on page 14]



ELVIS KNEW ROCK  
LANGUAGE

Rev. K. Neill Foster, Alberta

Elvis Presley is dead at 42. The hysteria he created through rock and roll is destined to continue though he himself has passed from the stage.

Whatever one may think of Elvis Presley as a musician, his influence upon the world has been profound. He may have been the first contemporary musician to recognize and capitalize on the fact that music is as much a language as written or spoken prose.

Presley used words and music to multiply impact, and often, mayhem. Rock and roll, regardless of the lyrics, said and still says many things.

Rebellion, immorality, violence, the drug scene, the occult, and helplessness are all wrapped into the frenetic beat. And somehow in the degenerating moral climate, North America was ready for Presley.

Statistically it can be demonstrated that rock and roll deafens and degenerates its devotees. It also binds them with an hypnotic spell. And Elvis Presley became the focal point of that degeneracy.

Certainly, too, if there had been no Elvis, there would have been someone else.

The tragedy is that some have vainly hoped to Christianize rock and roll. Words about Jesus are thumped and bumped and blurred. But Christian rock and roll remains an impossibility.

How can one repent and rebel at the same time?

If we had our "druthers," and we don't, Elvis at least had integrity.

The words and the music said the same thing, bad as it was. The Jesus rock is worse because it is still rock.

And deceptive. And probably blasphemous to boot.

Selected

Bulletin, St. John's-Grace Lutheran Parish, Ohio, Nebr.

The worship of self is the low depth to which the human soul fall. Let us offer praise to God and bless His holy name!

Doran's Minister's Manual

# The Best of Hallesby

## THE LORD'S RETURN

"But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

Jesus spoke often of His coming again.

It is clear that Jesus rejoices at the thought of the day of His return.

When He speaks to the disciples about this day, He does so in order to comfort them and to make them glad.

Here in this chapter He tells them of the world events which are to usher in the Day. He says expressly that He does this that they may lift up their heads toward that Day, the World-Day, after the long and dark night through which the world has lived.

On another occasion He designates His return as a rebirth of the world. He sees it clearly as the World-Spring, to be heralded by the mighty spring break-up which at that time shall occur throughout the whole universe: "There shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows."

But at that very time the disciples of Jesus shall experience the goal of their desires, the day of their redemption, as it is significantly designated in the Scriptures.

Then shall they be released from sin and all its consequences in soul and body. Then shall they be lifted up from sorrow and tears, from doubt, fear, and spiritual danger. They shall not taste death; they shall be clothed upon, not unclothed. They shall meet their Friend in the skies.

And they shall experience the greatest thing that anyone can experience: They shall see Him as He is. Him in whom they had believed but whom they had never seen in the way that their yearning souls longed to see Him.

"Oh, hasten Thine appearing,  
Thou Bright and Morning Star!  
Lord, may we soon be hearing  
The trumpet sound afar;

Thy people all are yearning  
To be Thy raptured bride,  
And at Thine own returning  
Be caught up to Thy side."

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# editorials

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## N. N. RØNNING

Few of our readers will remember that one of the first issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, in 1963, carried a feature article on N. N. Rønning, written by Dr. Carroll Hinderlie, then and until recently the executive director of Holden Village, Lutheran retreat in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. Dr. Hinderlie wrote as one whose life had been significantly influenced by N. N. Rønning.

N. N. Rønning will be remembered chiefly as the editor of *The Friend*. That magazine occupied a unique place among Scandinavians, particularly Scandinavian Lutherans, for several decades. We know of no similar publication among that constituency since, for you see it was independently published. Over the years we have used some material from the long-discontinued *Friend* in these pages, and we shall probably do so again.

But N. N. Rønning was a speaker and writer, too, although never ordained. And it was because of one of his books that we bring up his name again. A long time ago now, we read N. N. Rønning's book *Fifty Years in America* (published in 1938), borrowing it from our church library. It was interesting to a teenage boy. Now recently it has been our good fortune to have been given a copy of the book by Miss Estelle Brenden. It was her father's (G. J. Brenden) copy. Mr. Brenden was long-time editor of the *Badger* (Minn.) *Herald-Rustler*.

We find the book fascinating. It is an informal history of Norwegian Lutherans, for one thing. N. N. Rønning gives insights into various events of church life, church bodies and individuals, and other things. The thought has come, why not print some excerpts from *Fifty Years in America* in the *Ambassador*? For a small group of readers, these selections will bring back memories. And for a larger portion, we hope that N. N. Rønning's reflections will teach in an easy-to-understand manner some history that should be known.

We saw N. N. Rønning only once and he was an elderly man then. It was at some gathering at Augsburg College

in Minneapolis. Someone mentioned that N. N. Rønning was present. We had known his name for a long time. We grew up with *The Friend* in our home. Some of you did, too. Certainly that man with the great sense of humor would not mind seeing some of his writings in print once more.

The first such excerpts from *Fifty Years in America* are to be found in this issue under the heading "N. N. Rønning."

## THE MAIN CONCERN

A newspaper story out of Rochester, Minnesota, last month told about mass media advertising campaigns inaugurated by three mainline Protestant churches. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized in the effort to tell Americans that the churches are here and they want to help people.

There can't be anything wrong with advertising a church's existence and calling attention to what is available. No doubt every Association church has made use of local newspapers to give information concerning its schedule of activities and about special events. Radio has been used to a lesser degree for announcements and some of our parishes have Christian broadcasts of their own. We have heard minute sermons used by several denominations to catch the hearer's attention and this can be effective.

But one sentence in the above-mentioned article bothers us, as it will you. A Protestant minister is quoted as saying, "We're not so much interested in soul-saving as we are in conveying our concern for our neighbors and concern for the world." Perhaps the minister was misquoted. We hope so.

What is the concern for the neighbor and for the world? That their health will be good, that they will have enough to eat, that they will have more modern housing available? Surely the churches are to be concerned that the physical conditions of people be bettered, but the main task of Christian churches is soul-saving, that people get right with God through Jesus Christ.

Some religious leaders and ministers feel that "soul-saving" is an outdated term, that it is unfortunate and a stumbling block. But it is what the church is about nonetheless. There is sin and guilt to be delivered from. Any serious reading of the Bible makes that plain. And the burden or message of the Scriptures is that there is a salvation available. Therefore it is the task, the main task, of the Christian churches to make this salvation known.

We hope that so-called Christian churches won't hide their real purpose and aim, but stand unashamedly as agents of reconciliation in the world. Let them use what media avenues they can to get that truth out. The great Apostle put it so well: "So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Corinthians 5:20, 21).

## N. N. RØNNING

### Cyrus Northrop

President Cyrus Northrop (of the University of Minnesota) won my heart the first day I saw and heard him. He became my ideal in almost everything. I had never before met a more well-balanced man: dignified, democratic; religious, human; profound, simple; serious, humorous; strong, gentle.

In an address delivered November 18, 1908, at Whitman College, Washington, he (Cyrus Northrop) said:

"I would not stay one day at a state university if I were hampered in the maintenance of Christianity, and were compelled to recognize agnosticism as being as good as Christianity. I said to the Regents of the University of Minnesota in my inaugural address that I must be free as a believer in Christianity, and daily service in chapel, with singing of hymns, reading of Scriptures, and prayer to God, has gone on all these years, and hundreds of students daily attend these services, their attendance being entirely voluntary and not on compulsion.

"The students know where I stand and what I stand for . . . but for all that the Christian college can do more in the line of Christian teaching and work than the state university can . . . We of the state universities are simply glad that the Christian colleges can do more of this work than we can. We welcome, then, the Christian college as an ally in the work of education."

### John Hutchinson

Professor John Hutchinson (University of Minnesota) almost swept

me off my feet the first hour I attended his class in mathematics. He was a tall man, with bushy hair and piercing eyes. After having assigned the lesson for the next day, he seated himself on the edge of the table and for several minutes he gave us the most earnest talk any teacher of mine ever delivered in class or out of class. He spoke as a fervent evangelist. No platitudes, no beating around the bush. A straightforward appeal to us to make Christ our master.

A student once said that he liked to hear "Hutchie" pray for on such occasions he "always had the feeling that someone was on the other end of the line."

*(Continued from page 6)*

Royal stretched and tried to crawl to his knees. His head pounded.

"Where are we?" he muttered. "What town?"

"The crossroads of America, my friend, Chicago," the drunk beside him on the floor slurred.

"Hope they give me some time," Royal said. "I'd like to eat regular for ten days or so. Maybe get some time to think over what my next move will be."

The drunk rolled over. "They won't give you no time. County jail is too crowded this time of year. Don't get your hopes up. You'll be back on the street an hour from now."

Royal found out the Chicago drunk knew his Chicago jails. Within an hour, Royal was out on the street again.

From the Salvation Army he picked up a ticket for three rolls and a cup of coffee at a Chinese restaurant on State Street near Van Buren. Three rolls can taste like stew when you haven't eaten in a while.

The rest of the morning he wandered around that part of town, dozed in a deserted doorway until a policeman chased him. Toward evening it started to rain. Got to have a flop for tonight, Royal thought. Panhandling was as good as any way to get the cash.

"Please, Mister, can you spare some dough for a bed in all this weather?"

A man with a red face dropped a dime in Royal's hand. "Thank you, Sir, thank you."

The policeman came up from nowhere. "Move on, you bum. No begging here. The law says so. Move on." Royal moved on. "Big flatfoot," he grunted.

The rain made rivers of Chicago dirt down his face. He turned up his coat collar. He had to have money. There was always money on the Gold Coast of Chicago. Royal leaned into the rain and started north.

It would be a cinch to haul some guy into an alley and slug him. Up there on the Gold Coast, a guy would have at least 20 dollars on him. Then, to find a crap game and turn 20 into 100 in no time. Running his hand into his pocket, Royal patted his loaded dice.

Royal headed north on South State Street. He felt good already. He should have done this a long time ago. Nothing to it. He was in the 600 block when he heard a man calling. "Hey, come on in out of the rain, fellow. Come on in."

Royal ducked his head to one side. The sign over the man's head said, "Pacific Garden Mission."

"Oh, yes." He slowed down. "Pacific Garden Mission. What gets into you Christers to make you stand outside in weather like this and throw your hooks into guys like me minding my own business?"

"Just thought you'd like to get in out of the rain. But that's O.K. No hooks. Just keep on going, Buddy. Only here, read this sometime when your curiosity gets the best of you."

"Who's curious?"

"Oh, a guy like you, down on his luck, tired, hungry. You're bound to be curious. What it's all about, why are you here, where are you going?"

"You don't know what you're talking about, you lily-white Christer."

"Listen, Buddy, my jacket was as filthy as that coat of yours when I stumbled in here for the first time."

"You?"

"Sure. Come on in. It's nice and warm and dry and all you have to do is sit down. Maybe get that curiosity satisfied."



Royal looked hard at the man. It wouldn't hurt to get warm. Give the rain a chance to stop, and the boys on the North Side to get their crap games in full swing.

He walked into the mission. He heard the music first, and then a tall man in the front of the room said, "That's the melody to the chorus, 'Somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus, standing in the shadows, you'll find Him, and you'll know Him by the nail-prints on His hands!'"

"For the benefit of those of you who find yourselves at the Pacific Garden Mission for the first time, that song is well-loved around Chicago's Skid Row. And believe me, somewhere in the shadows, you will find Jesus."

Royal slouched down in his chair. The man went on talking. "If you really believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, then you can have freedom from the shackles of your sin here on earth. You can have eternal life, too."

"All God asks us to do is hold our empty hands up and take this gift. We can't understand it, but those of us who have dared take it know it is the only true reality. The Bible says, 'All we like sheep have gone astray. The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.'

"Come unto Me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

This religion stuff was twaddle, of course. Yet Royal felt something pushing him out into the mission aisle. Go down front for prayer? When your coat is ripped down the back and smells of stale grease and beer? You don't parade even in front of characters like yourself. So Royal sat still.

"Here, put my coat on," the man who'd done the talking up front said to Royal Leeson later. "Your coat looks wet, fellow. Take mine and let's go into the prayer room and give you a reason for living."

This was crazy. The superintendent of the mission handing him a coat when he usually had to beg an hour for a dime? But Royal didn't let that tempt him into any prayer room; he did stay around at the mission for the rest of the night and shelved his plan for finding a Gold Coast man with a wad in his wallet.

For a week, Leeson stayed at the mission, listening to the messages. This business about Jesus Christ he couldn't figure out.

At the end of a week, he stopped trying. He quit the mission. "I'm too rotten to get converted; I'll just beat some likely-looking 'sucker' on the head like I planned to do last week. I'll grab a few bucks and leave town right away. I'll leave that mission a long way behind."

The Superior Street alley was half-way down the block from Michigan Avenue. Not too many around at 11 o'clock. On Superior Street, some well-dressed gentlemen were likely to stuff a 50 dollar bill in their back pockets before starting out for an evening's fun, he figured.

"Just like this fancy neighborhood to keep the alley so clean that there isn't even a good garbage can to hide behind." Royal clenched his length of lead pipe harder. In his fists, he could feel his pulse pounding.

"I'll just back up here and slip into the shadows."

"Shadows"—he'd heard that before.

"Standing in the shadows, you'll find Him, and you'll know Him by the nailprints in His hands."

He was in the shadows now, wasn't he?

"All we like sheep have gone astray. The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

"Forget it," Royal told himself.

The shadow of the lamp post on the curb fell across the shadow of the building in a dark pattern. He watched two feet coming blithely along the sidewalk. He could tell they belonged to a young fellow, probably wearing a tweed overcoat and a Homburg. A young fellow, who probably ate lobster in the best hotels and drank at the best bars. Royal watched those feet come across the mouth of the alley, into the pattern of the shadows.

"Come unto Me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' 'He won't stop pursuing you; He'll be waiting in the darkness outside.'"

"O.K., Lord," Royal said.

With his hand gripping the lead pipe, he moved out of the shadows.

He stood in front of the young fellow in the Homburg.

"Evening," Royal said.

"Good evening," the man answered haughtily.

Beautiful night? There wasn't a doubt of it as Royal hurried back to the Pacific Garden Mission. He had found Christ in the shadows and to make sure he hurried to the Mission.

There have been other shadows in Royal Leeson's life since then. The shadows of smudge and soot on the faces of the Skid Row derelicts to whom he had told Christ's love. The shadows of great trees in a South American forest where he had served as missionary for 16 years, shadows on careworn faces in the church of which he later became pastor, where they sing, "Somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus, you'll know Him by the nail-prints in His hands."

UNSHACKLED; Courtesy,  
Pacific Garden Mission,  
Chicago, Ill.

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## PERSONALITIES

Rev. John DeBoer has resigned as pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minn., and will be leaving that work in January. He plans a trip to the West Coast after he completes his work at Zumbrota. Following that his plans are indefinite at present.

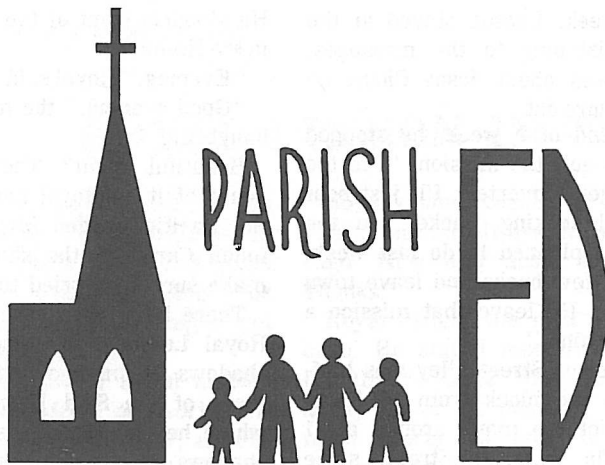
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### SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP HELD AT ROSLYN

The Sunday School Workshop of the South Dakota District was held Sunday, Sept. 25th, at the Saron Lutheran Church, Roslyn, Howard Kjos, pastor. The theme "Building the Family of God" was displayed with a banner. Emma Sakarison, Wallace, read Psalm 127:1, and followed with prayer. "Except the Lord build the house, those that build, labor in vain." It was brought out that we are building the house of our life each day by the things we do, the language we use and the friends we make.

Mrs. Lois Oscarson, Wahpeton, N. Dak., was the main speaker. She spoke about the Christian life. God often leads in ways we don't understand. It is essential that we must "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." Each day we must spend a quiet time with God and be prayer warriors. She used the example of a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. It becomes beautiful; likewise when Christ becomes the Lord of our life, we become a new creature. II Cor. 5:17: "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." We must never cease to give thanks. I Thess. 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Even when offended by someone.

As a Christian we must teach by precept and example, using God's Word as a mirror. We must take time out and ask ourselves, am I a vessel

fit for the Master's use? Constantly remember, God is our total Source and Supply.

She also demonstrated many ways to use visual aids in singing and impressed the importance of memorizing.

A business meeting was held. Alice Rudebusch read the secretary's minutes. Officers holding over are Emma Sakarison, Wallace, president; Alice Rudebusch, Ortley, vice-president; Adeline McCarrison, Webster, secretary. The invitation was extended by Tabor Church, Webster, to hold the workshop for 1978.

Pastor Kjos closed the meeting with words of appreciation to Lois Oscarson, and prayer.

A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of Saron Church.

Adeline McCarrison  
Secretary

### LUTHERAN INSURANCE GROUP GIVES GRANT FOR MISSION WORK

Aid Association for Lutherans, a fraternal insurance company headquartered at Appleton, Wis., has recently given the Board of Foreign Missions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations a grant of \$3,000. It comes from a fund designated for the professional enrichment of missionaries.

The Board of Foreign Missions, in consultation with AAL, has decided that the grant is to be used for the language studies of Rev. Dean Casselton, newest AFLC missionary in Brazil.

The studies are taking place in Campo Mourao, Parana, where the mission offices and schools are. Mr. Yeddo Gottel is in charge of the language program.

The Board of Foreign Missions and the AFLC express sincere appreciation for this fine assistance grant given by AAL.

### MORE SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD

Several more series of evangelistic services have come to the attention of the *Ambassador* recently.

In special meetings at Tordenskjold Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minn., Oct. 9-12, Rev. Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn., was the preacher. Rev. Ragene Hodnefield serves the congregation.

A prophetic conference was held in the Roseau, Minn., parish, Oct. 23-27. Rev. Chester Heikkinen, Minneapolis, Minn., was the speaker. The services Monday through Thursday were at Spruce Lutheran Church and Pastor Heikkinen visited the other three churches of the parish on Sunday also. Rev. Jerome Nikunen is pastor of the parish.

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., spoke at special services in his brother's parish at Kalispell, Mont. (Faith and Stillwater), Oct. 24-30. Rev. John Rieth is pastor at Kalispell.

### ANNUAL REPORTS ON SALE

The 1977 Annual Reports of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are now on sale. The price per copy is \$2.00. Copies have been sent to delegates to the 1977 Annual Conference.

The Report contains a wealth of information about the work of the AFLC. In addition to the record of contributions by each congregation, the Report carries a statistical report of congregational membership and activities.

Order your copy now from:

Annual Report  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Make your check payable to Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

# Life on the Edge of Town



## A GARDEN PLOT

One of the things I wanted to get done this fall was to get a garden plot plowed up. There hasn't been a vegetable garden here for quite a while, but where it has been possible where I've lived, I've had gardens. I was particularly satisfied with those I had at Roslyn, S. Dak. The parish bought an acre or so of land next to the parsonage and in that was an ideal place for a garden. Pastor Howard Kjos has continued the gardening there and expanded its size.

It took a while before someone could be found to plow the ground here to the west of our yard. It wouldn't be practical to get a tractor and five-bottom plow in for what I wanted and that's what farmers around here, too, are using nowadays. But at last I found that our neighbor to the east, across the river, Wallace "Swede" Johnson, had recently purchased an older Ford tractor with a two-bottom plow and he would do the job.

So now the garden plot has been plowed and disced and awaits further preparation in the spring and the planting. It's triangular-shaped because it's along the river bank and south of our roadway. There's some clay along the bank edge, but it looks like it will work out all right.

## FALL FESTIVAL

The last weekend in October it was my privilege to go back to one of my former parishes in South Dakota for a fall festival at Saron Lutheran Church, near Roslyn. And last June I was at Tabor Church, Webster, of the same parish, for a church anniversary. On both occasions it was so pleasant to meet former parishioners and other friends. Only a pastor who has served in a previous parish knows what it is like to go back and see the people with whom he has worked.

And often, at least if there has been any time between visits, there are the missing, faces which will not be seen again here and there is sadness in this.

A fall or harvest festival is a nice occasion. The season of the year lends itself to the theme of thanksgiving. Once again there has been a harvest. God is good. A program is given, a thank-offering is brought to the Lord, a lunch is served, people visit together.

It was good to share in Saron's festival. The congregation, by the way, is nearing the 100-year mark and thus is one of the oldest churches in northeastern South Dakota.

In Fargo on a recent Sunday, I was asked to visit a Mrs. Knute Twedt at St. Luke's Hospital. I recognized the name and for that reason, too, was glad to do so. Knute was in our service that morning and when I saw that he was in the audience memories began to come back to me.

Before my first and second years of college I went out to work on a farm (Roy Rasmussen) north of Mc Henry, N. Dak. Our threshing run included the Twedts and another neighbor. Before threshing began, of course, much of the shocking had to be done and I did a lot of that work. Have often thought when confronted by a large job of standing in the corner of a 40- or 80-acre field of oats or wheat, fairly heavy, with all the unshocked bundles lying there. It looks like quite a task for one person, but the first shock is put up, then another, and eventually the job is done.

In harvest time we worked from 7 to 7. In threshing the time could vary, depending on when work could start in the morning. Then we kept on until about dark. I was a "spike pitcher," standing by the threshing machine putting bundles into it as they were brought in by sweepstakes. We were three pitchers and we rotated shifts, working for 40 minutes and resting for 20. It was hard work, but we were young and strong.

There were pleasant times in threshing, too. The morning and afternoon lunches in the field (we hadn't heard yet of "coffee breaks"). The bountiful dinner tables at noon. The more leisurely supper hour when the day's work was over.

And I want to say something about the church we attended out there, Gethsemane Lutheran. It was a good church. It was what I was used to from home. There were quite a few young people. One time we went and presented a program at another church. Rev. John Loland was pastor, but he left during the second summer.

At the hospital the Twedts and I talked about old times. I shared the Reformation text (Rom. 1:16, 17) I had used in church that day and had prayer. We had a good time together.

—Raynard Huglen





**KEEPING PURPOSE AND HOPE**

"The worst thing that could happen to me would be if I got injured or sick so that I could no longer play ball." A young man in his twenties made this statement. One fact that many young people fail to realize is that even if we are spared from injury and illness, there will, however, come a time when we can no longer "play ball." An example of this is Harmon Killebrew who recently decided to retire from baseball. He admitted that this was an exceptionally difficult decision to make.

There will come a time for every one of us when we will no longer be able to do certain things that we formerly did with ease. For as our age increases, so do our limitations. Billy Graham says, "From the moment a child is born, the fight against death begins." The autumn of life comes all too quickly. And this aging process is an extremely traumatic one for many a person. Dr. Paul Tournier tells us that few people successfully adjust to old age.

Old age need not be feared if we heed this advice from the Bible: "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" An elderly lady, who has done this, commented, "I have no complaints. God has been so good to me." Let us remember our Creator and His Son, Jesus, now. Then life will still have purpose and hope even when we can no longer "play ball."

—Einar Unseth

thanked the ladies for their faithfulness in giving and sharing in the WMF work. She also presented our outgoing president, Grace Christianson, with a WMF Honorary Membership pin for her faithful service as president of the Lake Superior District.



Ellie Knutson presenting Grace Christianson with a WMF Honorary Membership pin.

A very inspiring Bible Study was given by Linda Moan, using Isaiah 40 as her reference and "God's Answer to Weariness" as her theme. She talked about both physical and spiritual tiredness, their causes and what we can do to overcome them.

Violet Berweiger read the poem "Make Your Day Bright by Thinking Right" and Rosamond Lee read "Autumn Audit."

Pastor Ronald Knutson of Moland led afternoon devotions and emphasized the importance of Christians living for Christ.

Pastor and Mrs. Trygve Dahle sang two duets, "I Have a Friend" and "I Found the Answer." Pastor Dahle brought us a very interesting message, using our theme, "Steadfastness." He pointed out that we as Christians should be steadfast in our prayer life, steadfast in Bible reading and steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord.

Rachael Tuura sang a solo, "Take Time to be Holy," and many hymns were sung by the entire group, including a sing-along.

The spring rally will be hosted by Drummond Lutheran Church at Drummond, Wisconsin, on the last Saturday in April.

After a time of sharing, Rev. Knutson closed with prayer and the benediction.

Verona Krohn, Secretary

**THEIR VISIT A BLESSING**

It was such a blessing to have Pastor and Mrs. Trygve Dahle in our parish on September 23 and 24. On Saturday, the 23rd, the Lake Superior WMF fall district rally was held at Moland Lutheran Church, Mason, Wis. Pastor and Mrs. Dahle provided several musical numbers throughout the day and Pastor Dahle delivered the message in the afternoon session.

On Sunday, the 24th, the Dahles provided special music at the morning worship services of Drummond, Faith and Moland Lutheran Congregations. Pastor Dahle also brought the morning message at Drummond and Moland churches. At 8 that evening, at Faith Lutheran Church, the Dahles showed slides of their trip to the mission field in Brazil.

The members and friends of our parish were amazed at the amount of vitality and enthusiasm which Pastor and Mrs. Dahle have. They certainly radiate the joy of the Lord and we praise Him for bringing these lovely Christians to our congregations!

Drummond—Mason, Wis.,  
Lutheran Parish

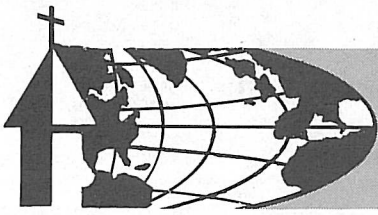


**THIEF RIVER PARISH TAKES OVER RADIO PROGRAM**

Our Saviour's Lutheran Parish of Thief River Falls, Minn., has assumed responsibility for the Sunday Morning Devotional Hour on station KTRF, Thief River Falls. It is broadcast at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday.

The program is about 30 years old, having been conducted by Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Ose originally. After his passing, she carried on the work until she was unable to do so. For some time the Lutheran Free Church parish at Newfolden shared in the programming. For the past several years Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer conducted the program.

Pastor DeBoer is presently serving as interim pastor at Pukwana, S. Dak. (St. Olaf and Pukwana).



## PRICE AND PUBLICATION DATE SET FOR NEW BOOK OF WORSHIP

Chicago — (LC) — The new Lutheran Book of Worship will be available for delivery to congregations by December 3, 1978—the first Sunday in Advent—at an introductory price of \$7.50 per copy, it was announced here.

Publication and pricing details for the 960-page volume were worked out at a meeting of representatives of Augsburg Publishing House of the American Lutheran Church, Board of Publication of the Lutheran Church in America and Concordia Publishing House of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The fourth partner in the publishing venture, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, shares in holding the copyright to the worship material but will not be a publisher.

Even though the LCMS, in action at its convention last July, has postponed final consideration of the book, Concordia will be among the publishers.

Concordia President Ralph L. Reinke issued a brief statement at the meeting here saying:

“At this time the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod continues through its participation in the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW) to be involved in the preparation of the Lutheran Book of Worship. Concordia Publishing House, as the publishing arm of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, at this time continues to be involved in the decision-making process regarding publication.”

At the publishers' sessions here, it was determined that the \$7.50 introductory price would be applicable for all orders placed before December 31, 1978, for delivery before December 31, 1979. After December 31, 1978, the price will be \$8.50 per copy.

Commenting on the price of the book—and some advance speculation that the figure would be higher than announced—Dr. Albert E. Anderson,

chief executive officer of Augsburg and ALC Board of Publication executive secretary, acknowledged that there is a calculated risk.

“It is essential to keep the book at the lowest possible price to assure maximum use by congregations,” he said. “I believe this is the best book of worship that Lutherans have had available to them in this country. Consequently, we are assuming the risk that once congregations understand the book and its contents there will be wide acceptance.”

The book will have a six by nine-inch page size, slightly larger than existing hymnals, with a green cloth-bound cover. It will include hymn and liturgical sections, with the latter printed in two colors, black and red.

## LUTHERAN HOUR BEGAN 45TH BROADCAST SEASON

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The Lutheran Hour began its 45th season of broadcasting on Sept. 18. For Dr. Oswald Hoffmann it marked the beginning of his 22nd year as Lutheran Hour speaker.

Dr. Hoffmann, who was named the speaker on the worldwide radio ministry of the International Lutheran Laymen's League in the fall of 1955, opened the new season with a message carried on every broadcast—the message of God's love to mankind.

He said:

“At this beginning of a new broadcasting season, the 45th in the history of this program, I welcome you to the love of God and I ask you with all my heart to let God's love flow in and warm you as only His love can. Love is the spark of life, blazing up into eternity. Grace, love undeserved, for that's what grace is, as only God can love, and peace as only He can give peace.”

About 1,100 stations in the United States and Canada carry the English language program featuring Dr. Hoffmann, and an additional 50 stations

in the U.S. and Canada carry programs in French, Spanish, Slovak, Chinese and Japanese.

The new season will have a new voice, that of the Rev. Wallace R. Schulz who became associate Lutheran Hour speaker in April. He formerly was associate admissions counselor at Concordia College in River Forest, Ill. He also served on the faculty of Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Mich., and was active in the Ambassadors for Christ in Minnesota.

Rev. Schulz will be heard on 14 programs during the 45th season. His first appearance was on Oct. 2.

The Lutheran Hour first went on the air in 1930 with Dr. Walter A. Maier as the founding speaker. Following Dr. Maier's death in 1950, Dr. Lawrence Acker and the Rev. Armin Oldsen served as speakers until Dr. Hoffmann accepted the position.

Dr. Hoffmann, who has served The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for almost 40 years as parish pastor, college professor, film production adviser and public relations executive, recently was elected president of the United Bibles Societies, succeeding the Rt. Rev. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Lutheran Hour, through its 18 branch offices around the world, produces programs which are broadcast in 45 languages to millions of people in 125 different lands.

The International LLL, headquartered in St. Louis, also sponsors a television ministry which includes the award winning dramatic series “This Is the Life.”

## WRC PLANS MOVE TO WHEATON

Dr. Paul Toms, World Relief Commission president, announced significant WRC changes made by majority vote of their Board at the October meeting:

(1) WRC, overseas relief and social concern arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, will move its in-

ternational headquarters on July 1, 1978, from Valley Forge to the new NAE Evangelical Center in Wheaton, Illinois. The move is part of a centralization plan affecting several NAE commissions and affiliates to increase economy and efficiency.

(2) Dr. Toms announced the resignation of Dr. Everett S. Graffam, WRC's executive vice president, who will have completed over 11 years as WRC head at the time of the move. (He was NAE's 1974 Layman of the Year.)

(3) Mr. Jerry Ballard, president of the management consulting firm of Ballard & Puckett, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, will succeed Dr. Graffam at the time of the move. Mr. Ballard will join the staff on January 1, 1978, as executive vice president-designate.

**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**  
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