

November 1, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador

Naomi and Her Daughters-in-Law

Gustave Doré



MEDITATION MOMENTS

WHAT IS MAN?

Job 7:17

How important that we ask ourselves questions concerning our purpose in life and what it really is that gives us happiness and fulfillment.

I read an article some years ago that mentioned three important ingredients for a meaningful life. Only in Christ can we have them.

1. **A person needs hope.** If a man does not have hope, something to look forward to, he is a miserable person.

Life is not always pleasant to us; there is much in the area of sickness, trials, poverty, death. But if a man has hope, if his perspective of life goes beyond this life, he can endure no matter what.

It is interesting to see how much talk there is about life after death. Books are being written about it. This was a subject that was left alone just a few years ago; now people from all walks of life are interested.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 8, makes a list of experiences a person can go through, but then closes with a positiveness because he knew where he was going and that no one could take his inheritance away from him in Christ Jesus.

Because Jesus died and rose again,

life is not an animal existence, death does not have to be feared and there is hope for all who are in Christ Jesus.

2. **A man also needs purpose.** A man needs to work, his life must be important or, again, he is incomplete.

Our purpose must go beyond the material. Solomon, who was the richest man on earth, found that there was more to life than riches. The reason for this is that a man can never enjoy all the rewards of his efforts or even begin to fulfill all his goals. He finds that the more he has, the more he wants.

Life takes on new meaning when we discover that we are not here just to make a profit, but to serve and be in the employ of God. God does not measure a man by how successful he is, **but by how faithful he is** with what God has given him. It is a tremendous privilege to be in the employ of one's Creator.

When a person realizes this, then he can be fulfilled no matter what his state in life may be.

3. There is something else a person needs: **a man needs someone to love and someone to love him.** Unhappy people are people who are bit-

ter, especially those who resent God and His ways.

I recall a person whom I talked with who had terrible hatred and distrust of God. Because of this she could not be happy and could not trust others, including her husband.

It is important that we know that God loves us very much and that He showed that love in sending His Son Jesus to die for us.

It is also important that we have a respect and love for God.

The Beatitudes speak of some of the qualities that God wants to see in us. One of them is, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." We must have a right spirit with our God. We must be in agreement with Him, knowing and believing that He always knows what's best.

I John 4:19 shows how this is possible: "We love, because He first loved us."

As we conclude it is again important to mention that these three areas, Hope, Purpose, Love, are possible for us only in a personal relationship with Jesus as we daily come to Him and abide with Him.

—David C. Molstre

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"The first of these (great spiritual revivals) occurred in Germany thru (sic) the work of Jacob Spener and Herman Francke at Halle around 1700. The era that ensued has been called 'the Age of Pietism,' its deep spiritual influence exerting itself in all Protestant lands"—Bible History for Home and School. Here is a second article on these giants of Pietism, this one about Herman Francke. It is translated by Rev. Edward A. Johnson, Ohio, Nebr.

Pietism and Practical Faith

August Hermann Francke and the Institutions in Halle

by Erich Beyreuther

As the young pastor of a down-at-the-heels suburban parish, and as professor of Oriental languages at the new and, at that time, progressive University of Halle, Germany—but frankly without personal merit—August Hermann Francke (1673-1727) one day found four dollars and 16 pence (*Groschen*) in the collection box for the poor. With that began a new era in Christian service.

In daring reliance upon God, Francke—born in Luebeck, raised in Thuringia, the son of a "jurist" (attorney), already pronounced fit for college at age 14, and thereafter converted in an almost violent experience after some basic doubts and brought back to reality—launched out and founded, first, a school for the poor.

Not according to any preconceived plan, but on the basis of an unshakable faith in the leadership of God, this work grew by leaps and bounds. An orphanage followed, then a public (city) school. Francke, as the first teacher, called in impecunious students and founded for them the first teachers' college in Germany. There were eventually 3,000 children who attended the "Francke Institutes" either for elementary school or for higher education during Francke's lifetime.

It was also above all due to August Hermann Francke that the Pietists came to the forefront of social and missionary enterprise. In these areas

we learn to know him most directly with his piety and his theology, which decisively imprinted itself upon Pietism. Like his many colleagues, whom he won among the students of theology, Francke was a modern man. His orphanage, a high, shiny, castlelike building, was something distinctly different from the unhappy "poorhouse, workhouse, and prisonhouse" syndrome of his time. Francke built a hospital for his school-children, too. Here, for the first time, medical students were educated right at the sickbed. The institute's own pharmacist won world renown for his work with drugs.

Next, the institute founded its own publishing house. . . . The first German observatory was built for the study of the stars. Vocational education was started. Francke made a point of doing away with the loose, unrestricted "discipline" which prevailed in the schools of that day.

Francke built all this with the help of enthusiastic fellow workers, students, and scholars. In any event he wanted his students and scholars to become faithful, generally useful persons who were ready to help their fellow men. They became persons full of sparkle and activity, ready at all times to work toward a new, ecumenical breadth of feeling on behalf of all Christendom.

At that time everything was still one-sidedly concentrated upon the education of boys. In Halle, however, over a thousand girls attended Francke's schools. Even though his first girls' high school or "gymna-

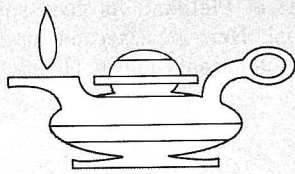
sium" found none too ready acceptance among other girls' schools, it was still the visible sign of a new movement. At first in Pietism the religious life of women and girls had developed independently within the church. Social occasions were regularly conducted in the schools, with the children receiving small presents.

Of course, the Pietistic education was not free of constraints; yet for its time it had a liberating influence. The genial pedagogue Francke always did everything on a practical basis, as when he combined classroom work with jobs in industry. He not only gave his students financial assistance by doing this, but he kept them from becoming "turned off" to the workaday world in which they must later move and prove themselves.

Even though gifts began to come pouring in from all over the world, Francke's remained a work of faith. His coffers, during the most critical construction periods, were often fearfully empty. He wrote a famous little book, still worth reading today, entitled "Blessed Footsteps of the Still Living, Ruling, Compassionate, Faithful God to the Shame of Unbelief and the Strengthening of Faith." In this volume he gives an unvarnished picture of his needs and his evident, importunate prayers. For countless persons of that time who faced doubt, he became a decided help toward finding faith.

This father of Pietism won the evangelical nobility for the kingdom

(Continued on page 11)



SCHOOL NEWS

HOMECOMING 1977

As I write this article, I can only say, "Praise God for His mighty work." This weekend (October 7-9) our school has truly been blessed with the return of its many alumni. Friday night started our Homecoming weekend with a time of sharing together the things God has done in each life. As we dug into past experiences, we also dug into bowls of ice cream at an Ice Cream Social. Served by the faculty, we had menu choices such as Moland Molehill, Dasari Dream, Dyrud Delight, Monseth Mountain, Haugen Fill, and of course, the Old Baldy Rodvold, each complete with their own special topping. What a way to "top off" a night!

Saturday's festivities started in the morning with devotions by Pastor Phil Haugen and an alumni business meeting. New officers were elected, as follows: president—Don Balmer; vice-president—Dale Finstrom; secretary—Pattie Erickson, and much business was discussed. Saturday afternoon got underway with the kickoff of the 1977 Homecoming game. The weather was cold, but hearts were warm as each person was rooting for his team. Former students will be happy to hear the alumni team DID win, just **sneaking** by the AFLBS team by a score of 7 to 6. You put up a good fight, AFLBS!

The afternoon pulled to a close as five teams did their best to battle the mud and rain to pull their way to vic-

tory at the First Annual Rope Pull. To the surprise of no one, the West Coast team won. (Who else could be so at home in such weather?)

As our evening started, we entered into the Banquet Hall at Silver Lake camp to feast on a great meal, along with the privilege of feasting on God's Word with the Honorable Albert H. Quie, U.S. Congressman. Much was spoken about our bond of unity with others, through Christ's love. Mr. Quie gave us a solution to our nation's problems. He said, "There is no way we can be a strong nation, state or community, unless we have strong families." Only Christ can give this bond of unity. In closing, we were encouraged to stress our love of Christ to the lives of other men and women, for this is our purpose in life. What a comfort to know that men such as Al Quie have positions in our government.

Our Homecoming 1977 drew to a close for this year, but our God still gives us that "bond of unity" (Col. 3:14) though far from each other.

—Candi Weinkauff



Congressman Albert Quie, banquet speaker



The banquet at Silver Lake



The 1972 Choir sings at the banquet



Nick Boyovich, right, and Brad Haugen prepare to sweep left end for the AFLBS team.

NEWS of the Churches

FALL FESTIVAL HELD AT GREEN LAKE

Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., held their Fall Mission Festival, September 11th. Guest speaker for the evening was Charles Knapp, son of Missionary and Mrs. Geo. Knapp. He also spoke at the Sunday School Rally Day service in the morning.



Mr. Charles Knapp

ADULT-COUPLES RETREAT HELD AT GREEN LAKE

A family retreat was held on Oct. 21-22 at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, Minn. It began Friday evening with a film called "TV and Thee" followed by a discussion of TV's im-

pact on families. The evening closed with a campfire fellowship.

The main session on Saturday morning was a presentation on the roles of husband and wife in marriage led by Pastor and Mrs. Donald Grevén, Sedan, Minn. In the afternoon Pastor Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., led a discussion on discipline in the home.

The retreat closed with the supper hour. An added bonus of the weekend was that hired cooks made the meals and did the dishes, freeing the retreat members for their sessions and relaxation.



Miss Judith Wold packing away her materials following the Sunday School Teachers Workshop of the Southwest Central Minnesota District held at the Scandia Lutheran Church near Sedan, Minnesota. Miss Wold was guest speaker at both the morning and afternoon sessions.

SCHEDULE OF EVANGELIST MOLSTRE

The following appointments for late fall for Evangelist-Youth Worker David C. Molstre are called to our readers' attention. Please remember to pray for these preaching missions, that the Spirit of God be permitted to use them to the fullest blessing. Uphold our evangelist in prayer daily.

Nov. 6-10—Trinity Lutheran, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., T. K. Skramstad, pastor

Nov. 13-17—New Luther Valley Lutheran, McVile, N. Dak., Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor

Nov. 27-Dec. 1—Badger Creek Lutheran, Badger, Minn., Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor

Dec. 4-8—Bethany Lutheran, Binford, N. Dak., Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor



EVANGELISTIC SERVICES HELD

Mr. Olaf Friggstad, Frontier, Sask., is the speaker at evangelistic services at Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash., Oct. 30—Nov. 4. In addition to being a lay evangelist, Mr. Friggstad is widely known for his farm implement manufacturing plant near Frontier and is the inventor of the Friggstad Cultivator. Rev. R. Snipstead is pastor of Triumph Church.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich., was the speaker at a week of evangelistic meetings at Hegland, Lutheran Church, Strandquist, Minn., Oct. 16-20. Rev. Merle Knutson is pastor of the church.

Zion Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minn., held special meetings Oct. 9-12, and the speaker was Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn. Rev. Dennis Gray is the local pastor.



LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCING THE YOUTH RALLY

"And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10). This was the theme verse of the past summer's Luther League convention at Kirkland, Washington. We praise God that many personally discovered the truth of this verse while there and all were reminded again that we are complete in Christ and only in Him.

In Phil. 3:9, we see that we are saved only by the righteousness that is found in Christ. Gal. 2:20 tells us that we can live the Christian life only by Christ's power as He dwells within. Then, in Jn. 15:5, we find that we can serve the Lord only as we abide in Him. It is clear, then, that we can be what God intends only as we abide in Jesus; then we are complete.

At the convention, it was again established that the Luther League should have a youth page in the **Ambassador**. Beginning with the November issues, this page will appear featuring regular articles, testimonies and announcements. The articles will be written by various pastors of the AFLC and will deal with issues of concern to our youth of today. The first series of articles will be written by Evangelist/Youth Worker Pastor David Molstre, who will be writing on the subject of meeting temptation. We also request that personal testimonies (along with a picture, if possible) be submitted by

Luther Leaguers for publication in the youth page. Hearing of Christ's work in young lives will be an inspiration and help to all of us. Testimonies should be limited to 200 words. District Luther Leagues are encouraged to use the youth page for announcing various activities. Young people may also have questions regarding the articles or other areas of concern that could be written about. Please submit all requests, announcements, questions and testimonies to our LLF Devotional Life Secretary, Tad Spading, whose address will appear at the bottom of the page. Questions regarding a particular article will be answered by the author of that article.

We need your help in another area to make our youth page complete. The youth page must have a title. If you have an idea as to what we should **NAME THE PAGE**, please send it to me prior to Nov. 16.

The Youth Page, then, should be not only interesting, but vital in the spiritual lives of our young people. Please pray with us that it may be used of God as part of His work in bringing to pass the reality of Col. 2:6, 7, in your life: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

Pastor Dale A. Mellgren,
LLF President
Box 8
Abercrombie, N. Dak. 58001

FAITH HAVEN TO BE SITE OF 1977 YOUTH RETREAT

The Mid-West Central District (Minnesota) will hold its annual youth retreat at Faith Haven Camp near Battle Lake, Minn., Nov. 4-6.

The retreat is open to all youth in grades 9-12. Persons with at least one year of college or Bible school training will serve as counsellors.

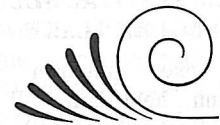
Mr. Wayne Pederson, Roseville, Minn., former youth worker in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will be the guest speaker, speaking on Friday and Saturday evenings. Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., will lead Bible studies on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Mr. Pederson will preach the sermon at the worship service at 11.

The film "Troubled Waters" will be shown at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The district Luther League will hold a meeting at 12:45, also on Saturday afternoon.

Cost of the retreat will be \$12.00.

The district annual meeting will be held Sunday afternoon at Faith Haven at 2:30. Mr. Pederson will also speak at that time.



NAOMI AND HER DAUGHTERS IN-LAW

(See Cover Photo)

The parting of Naomi with her daughters-in-law forms the subject of the present engraving. Orpah has just said farewell and departed weeping; but Ruth, of a nobler, more faithful nature, clings to her mother-in-law, and refuses to leave her. Her words, as recorded in the Bible, are among the most pathetic annals of devotion and domestic love: "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me."

The scene is finely portrayed by the artist. The wide, lonely land, over which the parting steps of Orpah lay, yet leads her home to kith and kin; but for Ruth, Love alone is to be the pathway of her future life, and she turns to Naomi, content with her to fix her lot, afterwards so beautifully rewarded by years of prosperity and peace.

—The Doré Bible Gallery

Women For Christ

LADY AT EVERETT GIVEN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



Mrs. Harold (Orlin) Anderson, above left, displays the new Honorary Membership pin she received at the September meeting of Calvary Lutheran WMF in Everett, Wash., as Pastor and Mrs. Leslie Galland look on. Mrs. Anderson is at present our WMF president.

The evening was of special significance also because the ladies of Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash., were our guests. Mrs. Karen Martell of Lake Stevens presented the Bible study and the Elim ladies chorus, under the direction of Mrs.

Michael Brandt, rendered the music. We have been invited to be guests of the Elim WMF for the December meeting.

—Corr.

WEST COAST WOMEN ASSEMBLE AT FERNDALE

The Women's Missionary Federation of the West Coast District held its fall rally in Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash., on September 2.

The theme of the rally was taken from Ephesians 3:19: "...be filled with all the fulness of God" and the theme song was "Fill My Cup, Lord."

Mrs. Marilyn Pederson of Triumph gave the welcome greeting and Mrs. Ann Mayer from Lake Stevens, Wash., our district president, gave the response. Mrs. Alice Bottem of Kirkland, Wash., led in the prayer session.

The special music for the morning was a vocal solo, "Harvest Time," by Mrs. Jan Galland, of Everett, Wash. Mrs. Viola Johnson of Kirkland led in the devotions.

Mrs. Mayer introduced Mrs. Marie Klausli of Ferndale, formerly of Africa, who presented an inspiring, interesting and blessed Bible study on

the text Ephesians 3:16-21. Mrs. Jan Willand of Ferndale led the memorial service.

During the business session various reports were read. The roll call showed 96 registered, as follows by parishes: Astoria, Ore. — 5; Vancouver, Wash. (discontinued) — 1; Kalispell, Mont. — 7; Everett — 17; Lake Stevens — 14; Kirkland — 6, Ferndale — 39; and seven visitors.

An invitation to come to Elim Lutheran, Lake Stevens, for the spring rally was extended to us. Mrs. Marion Rieth of Kirkland thanked all who came to assist with the work at the Luther League Federation convention in Kirkland in July. It was decided that we give half of the offering, which was \$409.31, to the Church Extension Fund and half to the Bible School.

The Ferndale ladies served a delicious luncheon and great fellowship was enjoyed.

The afternoon session began with singspiration led by Mrs. Helen Hilmo of Lake Stevens. Mrs. Natalie Melseth of Ferndale led in devotions.

Pastor John Rieth, Kalispell, rendered a vocal solo, "Do You Know My Jesus?" after which he brought the afternoon message. He based that on John 15:1-5, where Jesus refers to us as branches of a tree. "Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Even so we must be emptied of ourselves and filled with the Holy Spirit. Most of us do not want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need continual cleansing of our faults and weaknesses, as referred to in Psalm 51. Apart from God we can do nothing.

After the singing of the theme song and praying the Lord's Prayer, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. R. Snipstead, who serves the congregation in Ferndale.

Mrs. Solveig Hays
Secretary

THREE WOMEN HONORED AT SPICER

Receiving Honary Memberships in the Women's Missionary Federation at the Green Lake Lutheran Church,

Spicer, Minn., September 14th, were Mrs. Anna Berndt, Mrs. Ray Carlson and Mrs. Lawrence Christopherson. Each received her certificate and pin at the regular WMS meeting. Guest speaker was Miss Karen Knapp, missionary nurse in Brazil. Special Music was provided by the Ladies Chorus.

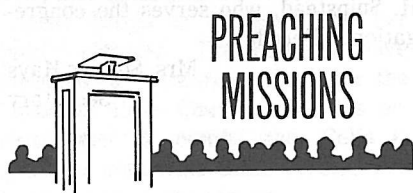


Left to right, Mrs. Anna Berndt, Mrs. Ray Carlson and Mrs. Lawrence Christopherson



Miss Karen Knapp, guest speaker

(Continued on page 12)



Stacy, Minnesota
Sunnyside Lutheran Church
Wendell Johnson, pastor
Nov. 19-23
Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis,
Minn., speaker.

The Best of Halleluby

GODLY SORROW

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10).

We are impelled by a variety of motives in our striving against sin, motives which we oftentimes cannot distinguish ourselves.

At times we do battle against sin because we are fearful of its unfortunate and dangerous consequences in our lives, both here and in the beyond. At other times our struggle against sin is prompted by our own wise calculations: we see that some advantage will accrue to us if we overcome it.

But we win real victory over sin only when we can say deliberately: "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Here we are afforded a glimpse into the mystery of sanctification. God has no means of sanctifying us except that of wooing us away from sin. By that we mean: He loves us until we feel that it becomes more and more unendurable to do anything contrary to such love.

Such distress as this is therefore the surest indication that the love of God is being permitted to do its work in our hearts. The deeper sorrow of this kind becomes, the more spiritual our abstaining from sin will be.

No doubt not a little of the longing for heaven among us is of a kind which those who are in heaven do not prize very highly. When our earthly plans are crossed, when adversity and tribulation set in and everything goes wrong, we begin to long for heaven. But such longing is nothing but veiled selfishness.

True longing for heaven is, on the other hand, a quiet longing for the day when we shall never again defile our souls by sin of any kind, never again offend any one by our love of self, never again grieve God by disobedience.

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editorials

ALLIN'S OFFER TO QUIT

We take note of the offer of presiding bishop John M. Allin to step down from his post in the Episcopal Church if his 150 fellow bishops couldn't accept his strong opposition to the ordaining of women as priests.

He reportedly told the House of Bishops that he believes that women can no more become priests "than they can become fathers or husbands." His stand, with which we agree, surprised us nonetheless because we attended parts of the 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minneapolis a year ago in September and did not learn that the pipe-smoking bishop was opposed to ordination. And it was at that convention that the Church made the historic decision to ordain women.

The Episcopal Church is not a happy church these days. A small segment of it is withdrawing to set up an independent organization over this very issue. Still other in-

dividuals and congregations will join the exodus. That is one response, in conscience, to the abandonment of centuries old belief, belief believed to be founded on Scripture itself.

And Dr. Allin is willing to remain and serve, as his bishops want him to do, even though that which he heads has departed, in an area, from what he truly and really believes.

These are the hard and lonely decisions in life and faced increasingly within the organized churches of our time. When is it time to leave; when is it time to stay? What latitude is permissible in changing doctrine and practice before a church significantly departs from the faith of the founders? Loyalty to an historical organization is beautiful to see, but is it the highest loyalty? No, no one would argue that it is. Yet to flit from one thing to another is no mark of stability.

There must be few decisions in life more difficult than the one to leave a church, even for doctrinal reasons, be it the congregation or the denomination, in which one has been raised. We can have great respect for those who decide to leave and for those who decide to stay and contend against that which they believe is wrong (providing they continue to contend for the faith).

Of course, each must be convinced in his own heart that what he believes is what God's Word says. That different people come to different conclusions after study on some point is a fact of life. The Lord will have to sift it all in His time. For now, each must be true to his conscience.

And the issue of the ordination of women has become a testing ground for loyalties, for love, for fellowship, for faith itself, in our time.

(Read "The Bible and the Role of Women in the Church" in the 1972 Annual Report of the AFLC, page 63, for an official statement on the subject; also, "The Woman's Role in the Church" by Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom in the two most recent issues of the *Ambassador*, Oct. 4 and 18.)

JESUS AND SOCIAL ISSUES

But it may well be noted that if men truly approach Jesus and accept His message, the result will be a re-created society. We may also note that there are more social implications in the message of Jesus than we have been willing to admit. The time has come for the church to approach Jesus in order to obtain light also in the matter of economic readjustment, and from such an approach to be as bold as He was in denouncing economic injustice and social inequalities when such inequalities are the result of inequality of opportunity.

Theodore Huggenvik in
The Approach to Jesus

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

It is beyond doubt that a Christian family can accomplish much in laying the foundations which faith in Christ must be built upon. But it cannot press forth anything. Children of Christian parents often encounter fatal stumblingblocks outside the family, through other people. Martin Luther's Small Catechismus (sic) states that it is impossible to believe in Jesus Christ through one's own powers or intellect. The spiritual authority of Christian parents consists only in that they through their own life and behavior show which authority they themselves recognize:

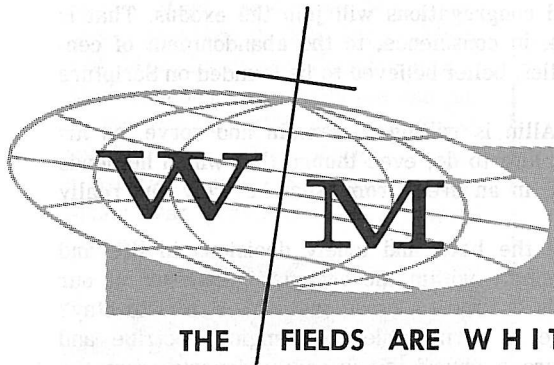
God's authority. Parents owe it to their children to make it plain what the foundations of their own lives are, and not to conceal to whom they consider themselves responsible. The rest is up to God, who will not shrink from His responsibilities towards our children.

—Immanuel Lutheran Church
Tel Aviv, Israel



A good hearer makes a lively preacher, just as really as a poor preacher makes a dull hearer; and eloquence is not all in the speaker.

Wm. M. Taylor



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

LET'S GO VISITING

Acts 4:20: "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

"Let's go, Helen, and visit those we've met so far," calls Pastor George.

The day is warmer than it was yesterday, when we needed sweaters in the morning. Vilhena is a very healthy place, everyone claims, except for this change in temperature which causes many to catch colds. We go out of our five-room rented home, having shut the shutters and door windows, and lock the door. At the street we turn to the right and walk on the red dirt-pebbled street, pebbles which like to roll under one's feet and trip us up.

Our first stop is at Maria's from Ceara. The car is home and we hope to meet her husband.

—How are you today, Dona Maria?

—I am fine, thank you.

—Is your husband home today?

—No, he is traveling.

We visit a bit. She seems very sincere and interested. She has a brother who is a Christian, who also has her Bible. We read the Word, pray and leave a tract for her to ponder.

Dona Daeja is at home and her lovely children. The children have attended Sr. Vincentes' work for the Lutheran Free Church since his arrival here 15 months ago. Celia is quick to memorize Bible verses. The father works at the airport.

—And what is your husband's name?

—Salvador, he weighs baggage and freight at the airport.

—I suppose I met him when I was here in April, says Pastor George. I'm looking forward to knowing him and

reading God's Word with him.

Dona Maria, who lives on the corner across from Sr. Vincentes, has a sick boy for whom we pray. We find out later they've taken him to the spiritist house, but it did not help.

At our next stop we are happy to find Sr. Antonio at home.

—How are you, Senhor?

—I'm fine, thank you. Come in and sit down.

—And how are you, Dona Cordalina?

—I'm fine, sit down over here.

We have a very interesting visit with the parents of this large family, 14 living children, 15 people at home these days. They sleep in three beds and five hammocks.

—And what is your work, Sr. Antonio?

—I've been hiring out to hoe in the crops and clear forests. Pastor, I hear Christian programs every evening on my radio. I listen to one Christian program after the other that comes from Bon-Aires, Antilles. There are wild animals in the forests; I listen to my radio until 1 a.m. when the station signs off. The noise of the radio will keep wild animals away.

—Putting your trust in the Lord Jesus will do even better, Senhor. We are inviting you to come to our home this evening to study God's Word.

—We'd like to come, replies Sr. Antonio.

From there we stop briefly at three more homes, leaving tracts and an invitation to the evening meeting.

We trust God to bless the witness here in Vilhena, Rondonia, Brazil.

Missionaries

George and Helen Knapp

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Michael Brandt, pastor of Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash., since 1972, has resigned that pastorate to accept a call to the new home mission work in Amery, Wis., which has been cared for by Pastor Albert Hautamaki, and before that, by Pastor Norman Tenneboe. Pastor Brandt will take up his new work later this fall.

REV. CLARENCE T. NELSON

Rev. Clarence T. Nelson, prominent Lutheran Church in America clergyman, died on Sept. 22, at the age of 73. His wife, Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, is a sister of former Minnesota governor Luther W. Youngdahl and the late Rev. Reuben Youngdahl. She has authored several books, including **God's Song in My Heart**.

The Nelsons served churches in Minneapolis, Minn., St. Paul, Minn., Duluth, Minn., Chicago, Washington, Geneva, Switzerland, and Dharan, Saudi Arabia. They returned to Minneapolis in 1971 and he became pastor for special ministries at Augustana Lutheran Church at 7th Street and 11th Avenue. After retiring he became a part-time chaplain at Augustana Home.

Dr. Nelson was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Ill. He was decorated by the government of Sweden and received an honorary doctorate from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kan. The Nelsons lived in Edina, Minn.

Besides his wife and seven children, he is survived by 17 grandchildren and a brother, Rev. Clifford Ansgar Nelson, Minneapolis.

(Ed. note: I met Dr. Nelson once, in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1967. I had taken the liberty to give the address of his church there as a place where I could receive mail. Upon my arrival, he personally delivered the mail to me at my hotel. Mrs. Nelson was out in the car and I was introduced to her there.)



[Continued from page 3]

of God, and they sent their sons from far and wide to attend Francke's institute for the nobility. He led these persons from a useless, artificial way of life into constructive pursuits. And they came in such numbers to the school functions that Francke had to build new stables for their horses!

This pastor-professor became an internationally known personality. The empress of Russia was once an unannounced visitor to his public school. Russia opened itself up to Francke's educational plans. The Baltic ministers of the Czar became Francke's personal friends through whom he was able to minister effectively to the Swedish prisoners of war in Siberia. In Europe, throughout the Baltic and the Scandinavian realms, in England and Holland, in the Balkans, in North America, in South America, and everywhere his students went as teachers and missionaries, this piety with a new accent was extended and spread. A missionary work got started

in East India. The Church of England and the Lutheran state church of Denmark and Norway officially supported this service of the Halle missionaries as the first such ecumenical undertaking.

Finally, Francke wanted to educate youth from all over the world in his high school institute, making them ready to institute reforms and to transform the world with the powers of an awakened Christianity. He was no longer able to carry out this plan, however; the more robust Enlightenment period overpowered him.

It is true that the Halle Pietism lived off of the best energies of a Lutheran orthodoxy that was then dying out. The Pietistic hymns in our hymnals speak of this influence. Yet this was not enough, nor comprehensive or disciplined enough, to ward off the new Enlightenment with its storms of doubt. Eventually only small though resolute Pietistic minorities remained in the midst of an official ecclesiastical establishment that remained

unmoved by them.

But for all this, Pietism still performed a significant deed for an age beset by a growing, worldwide crisis of faith. She called men to evangelical and missionary volunteer work with educational and social goals. She embodied a will toward social reform which took direct aim at public life throughout all Europe. With his abundance of plans, August Hermann Francke blazed new trails in the reformation of theological studies, of education, of sociology, of the social studies, and in public health work. His real foundation, the public school, is today part of the University of Halle under another name.

(Translator's comment: This year of 1977 marks the 250th anniversary of Francke's death. He went home to be with God on June 8, 1727, at the age of 64.)

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Kirchliches Monatsblatt,
Dr. Adolf Wegener, editor.



EVER IS A PERIL NEAR ME

Ever is a peril near me,
Ever have I grace to cheer me,
Ever in my woes I sigh,
Ever see I Jesus nigh.

Ever do my sins upbraid me,
Ever Jesus comes to aid me,
Ever woes around me throng,
Ever am I full of song.

Now I seated am in gladness,
Now I fall and lie in sadness,
Often weary and distrest,
Ever find in Jesus rest.

Thus is grief linked to my gladness,
Sweet and bitter, joy and sadness,
Fill the cup that I must drain
In this life of joy and pain.

But, O Jesus, mid life's sadness,
Grant that faith's true joy and gladness,
Over sin and grief that quail,
Ever, ever may prevail.

Thomas Kingo
(from *Concordia*, 1917)

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS
(February 1-September 30)

	Total Budget 1977-1978	Current Budget	Rec'd during September	Total Rec'd to date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$72,680.00	\$ 48,453.28	\$ 7,254.87	\$ 37,030.61	76.4	51.
Schools	119,452.00	79,634.64	6,239.28	49,263.72	61.9	41.
Home Missions	75,000.00	50,000.00	5,024.33	35,356.20	70.7	47.
Foreign Missions	85,345.00	56,896.64	6,870.29	49,614.29	87.	58.
Praise Fund	30,000.00	20,000.00	1,761.94	12,783.31	63.9	42.6
TOTAL	\$382,477.00	\$254,984.56	\$27,150.71	\$184,048.13	72.0%	48%
					(Ideal—66.67%)	
1976-1977	\$402,524.00	\$265,015.92	\$17,568.85	\$159,692.96	60.2%	39.6%
Legacies: \$32,295.55						

OCTOBER 4 DAY OF WMF RALLY

Zion Lutheran Church of Willmar, Minnesota, hosted the fall rally for the Southwest Central District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, October 4. Pastor Dennis Gray was the host pastor.

The theme for the day was I Cor. 1:31b: "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." "To God Be the Glory" was our theme song for the rally.

Mrs. Ted Aasness, president, presided over the sessions. Mrs. Arnold Schmidt, Fergus Falls, led in devotions, reading from John 14:1-4 and 27. Mrs. Gene Berg welcomed us on behalf of Zion Lutheran. Pastor Donald Greven, Scandia Lutheran, led us in singspiration and directed the district choir which sang beautifully "The Name of Jesus" and "Search Me, O God." A delicious noon luncheon was served by the Zion WMF and the morning and afternoon coffee breaks were served by the Green Lake and Sunburg WMF's.

Mrs. Art Arneson, Spicer, brought the morning Bible Study to us from our theme song, "To God Be the Glory." She spoke on the greatness of God, the wonders of God, and the works of God. The saints of God are in God's hands, in His care, in God's protection, in God's love and blessing, and in God's control. Pray God for wisdom. Praise God for the great things He has done, she said.

Pastor Dennis Gray brought the afternoon message on "The Message of the Cross." I Cor. 2:2—the apostle Paul wanted people to be drawn to Christianity by the simple message of the cross. The message of the cross goes down in defeat when we place ourselves as Christians in the place of the cross. I Cor. 2:5—your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. The cross is not man's method of reaching out to God but the cross and its message of salvation are God's way of reaching out for man. We can have all things through Jesus Christ. Christ is our sufficiency—Christ is our wisdom. He is the stable source of truth.

Mrs. Alma Sand, Green Lake Lutheran, led us in prayer fellowship from Eph. 3:14-21. God is the right Father of everyone that can claim that he belongs to the family of God. We should pray that we might be strengthened as God's children. Any unconfessed sin in our life can hinder us from prayer. Let's worship Him, thank Him, and praise Him and then bring our prayers to Him. Pastor Julius Hermunslie led in prayer for our President, our nation, her leaders and servicemen. Prayer requests from the *Ambassador* were handed out for people to pray about since the AFLC prayer vigil was in progress. Pastor Gray closed in prayer for concern of lost souls.

The morning offering was taken for Cradle Roll and Junior Missions and the afternoon offering was taken for the General Fund. Mrs. Milton Erickson reported on the District Cradle Roll and Mrs. Floyd Johnson presented the WMF budget for the 1978-79 year.

A blessed day was enjoyed by all.
—Mrs. John Arlen Johnson
Secretary

ON RED WING SEMINARY

Much was said of "the spirit of Red Wing Seminary." I think that the school, as I knew it, represented some of the finest things in Haugeanism: a mellow, gentle piety; deep seriousness; an inner glow of happiness; an ever present but not demonstrative concern for the spiritual welfare of others; hard work; eagerness to serve in the field the spirit would indicate.

"The spirit of Red Wing Seminary" was created not so much by the teachers as by the students. The teachers, however, gave the spirit room and encouragement. Most of the students during the earlier years came from Haugean homes in Norway or had been converted in that country. Later they came from Haugean homes in the (this) country. Sometimes boys were sent to Red Wing Seminary in the hope that they might be converted. It did not always work, but no student ever left the seminary without having been confronted with the challenge of Jesus Christ.

N. N. Rønning in
Fifty Years in America.



NOTE THESE ADDRESSES

The address of Pastor and Mrs. Philip Haugen is 4749 Yates Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55429. Pastor Haugen is a teacher at Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Telephone: 537-8805.

Pastor and Mrs. Gary Skramstad and family are residing at 2367 Larpenteur, Apt. 103, Maplewood, Minn. 55109. Telephone: 770-6207. Pastor Skramstad is serving Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn.

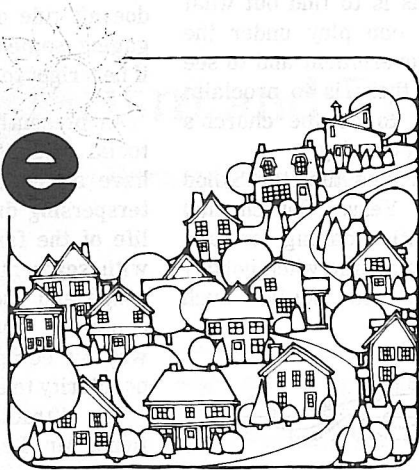


In Memoriam

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

SOUTH DAKOTA
Bristol
Harold Nilson, 63, Oct. 16, Tabor,
Webster

Life on the Edge of Town



THOUSAND DOLLAR VIEW

Today I'm sitting at my desk in my new office in our home. It has been possible to use the office for the past couple weeks, but even now it isn't completely in order. But by the time you read this all may be in readiness.

From my desk I look to the south, out through the trees in the river bottom. The river itself lies 200 feet or more away, depending on where one looks, for it angles sharply to the southeast. With the leaves gone now, it is possible to see, in certain places, where the riverbed lies. And beyond it is the farm land once owned by my uncle, Sam Lee.

When people have a panoramic view from their living rooms, either of more than ordinary beauty or of long distance with some natural object to grace the scene, I say that they have a "million dollar view." It is something you cannot buy for that price. My view is not of that scope, but it is a thousand dollar view and if one were to figure in sentimental values, much more than that.

But here from my desk between stretches of writing and other work, I can glance up and survey these woods. Perhaps I will see some small creature or bird and if I am fortunate, some day a moose, for my mother and sister have seen them around here a number of times. I will watch the woods in winter and, when spring comes, see all of this throb with plant life again.

SERVICES IN FARGO

For the past weeks it has been my privilege to conduct the Sunday worship services at our church in Fargo, N. Dak., St. Paul's. On the 16th of October the congregation learned that another pastor had declined the call to become permanent pastor.

It has been good for me to get back to Sunday-after-Sunday preaching after being away from that for five years. Oh, there have been some preaching opportunities, but not so many on consecutive Sundays. It is a challenge to study and prepare for each service.

A further assignment is that of meeting with the confirmation class—a combined one. Here, too, it seems natural to be working steadily with those old familiar materials—Catechism, Bible History and workbook. I haven't been away from that work as long, though, because at Medicine Lake Lutheran in Minneapolis I taught two senior confirmation classes and started a junior class before our present pastor, J. G. Erickson, came.

Have stayed overnight sometimes on these trips at the Powers Hotel in Fargo. Only those who were involved in those early days of the AFLC—planning committees, board meetings, 1963 Annual Conference, district instructors training sessions (DITS), etc.—can know the memories the place has for us. Now it is about the last of the five or six downtown hotels which were operating in Fargo-Moorhead in those days. But it is still neat, clean and well run, with a fine restaurant. Don't know if they still serve those delicious popovers at evening dinners, though. Some of you will know what I'm talking about.

PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP

It was good recently to attend my first meeting of the Northern Minnesota District monthly pastors' fellowship at the home of Lay Pastor and Mrs. Burton Rygh in Greenbush, Minn. We were six pastors, plus the wives, with two absences.

We enjoyed a good meal and conversation. There was some business discussed and some sharing prompted by devotional remarks by the host. Then there was a season of prayer with all taking part. I was reminded of our faculty prayer sessions weekly at our Schools. Perhaps it can be told here that an oft-heard petition there is that for the congregations and friends supporting the Schools.

Attending the pastoral fellowship reminded me of those back in the old Williston District in the first years of my ministry when we gathered together, most of us new in the work, but sometimes fortunate to have an older pastor or two who could add their wisdom and experience to our youth.

—Raynard Huglen



A WORD TO PARENTS

"I want you, Daddy." My two-year old boy smiled a winsome smile as he spoke these words to me. He had entered my study to see me. Being busy, I had tried tactfully to get him to leave, I had offered him a balloon, some gum, and book. To each of these tempting offers he had merely shaken his head and said, "No." Being puzzled, I asked him, "What do you want?" Then he touched my heart as he replied, "I want you, Daddy." Needless to say, I was so moved that I laid my work aside and spent some time with him. My boy wanted me more than any of my gifts.

Often I have been reminded of the need for us parents to spend time with our children. A certain girl came to me to get married. Because this marriage was a case of necessity, the girl's father became extremely upset. However, the girl was also upset. She bitterly remarked, "I can recall only one time in my life that my father took time to do anything with me. He once helped me build a snowman." That girl had been deeply hurt by her dad's neglecting her.

God's Word tells us parents, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Training of our children requires giving of ourselves and our time to them. And the most important training we can give them is for the spirit, as we train them to follow Jesus Christ. Let us take time to give this vital training to our precious children while they are still with us and especially while they still say, "I want you, Daddy."

certain government measures for the "new democracy," such as land reform, it feels it must oppose the Marxist-Leninist ideology of the rulers.

In Mr. Tumsa's opinion, the present task of Lutherans is to find out what role the church can play under the new Ethiopian government and to see what possibility there is to proclaim God's word and to do the church's work in a socialist country.

Mr. Tumsa recalled that the Synod of the Mekane Yesus Church had adopted a resolution calling for land reform in 1973, at a time when nobody in Ethiopia dared to mention such things.



'THE JOY OF BACH' TV FILM PRODUCTION PLANS ADVANCE

New York—(LC)—The producer and writer who collaborated with Lutheran Film Associates (LFA) on two earlier major productions are again teamed to work with the agency on its forthcoming television presentation on the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, it was announced here.

Robert E. A. Lee, LFA executive secretary and executive producer for the project, entitled "The Joy of Bach," reported that Lothar Wolff has been engaged as producer and that Allan Sloane, an Emmy Award winner for his dramatic scripts, will have the key writing role for the project.

Mr. Wolff and Mr. Sloane were both associated with the Lutheran film agency in its "Martin Luther" and "Question 7" films.

Mr. Lee reported that plans for the Bach production have now moved into a second phase, with approval of a basic outline and the start of a search for a cast and a survey of filming locations in both this country and Europe.

The outline and ongoing production plan were examined and endorsed by the LFA Production Committee as it met in Chicago in late July. The committee will meet again in October.

Mr. Lee—who is also executive di-

rector of the Lutheran Council in the USA's Office of Communication—said that particular attention currently is being given "to finding the right actor to play the role of Bach."

"Several noted performers are being considered," he said, "but this doesn't rule out the possibility of engaging someone not yet well-known, if he's right for the part."

As presently outlined, the LFA official said, "The Joy of Bach" will have a "counterpoint" approach—interspersing dramatic vignettes in the life of the famed Lutheran composer with segments illustrating the broad range and use of his music over the centuries, with special focus on the way his compositions have held their popularity to the present time.

The "traditional" Bach presentations, Mr. Lee said, will be balanced against the numerous "innovative" interpretations of his work by musicians in many countries.

A major pre-production effort, he added, has been an extensive global survey of special Bach festivals and performances. Segments of several of these are likely to be incorporated in the final production.

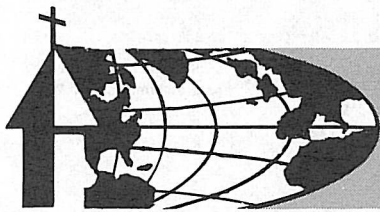
In addition to the basic 90-minute film, which is planned for initial showing on public service television in 1978, the LFA official said there is the possibility that a series of shorter films also will be produced for television, theater or group showing.

A preliminary budget of \$400,000 has been provided so that production can start. Half of this amount has been supplied by two of the LFA partners—the American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in America—and a matching grant has been provided by Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal benefit society. The third LFA partner, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is not participating in the project.



"Three Bests"

1. The Best Thing: The Word.
2. The Best Place: The Heart.
3. The Best Purpose: To keep us from sin.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

For the first time in 112 years, London's famed Westminster Chapel has an American pastor. R. T. Kendall, a Baptist minister and theologian from Kentucky, was installed earlier this year; preceding him have been such men as G. Campbell Morgan and Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

An Orlando, Florida, shopping mall's third anniversary celebration was to feature a "Para Extravaganza" involving witches, warlocks, psychics, astrologers and hypnotists, but was called off after the mall's directors received dozens of phone calls from Scripture-quoting customers threatening to boycott the mall's stores.

In the past 20 years, the Russian government has authorized the printing of only 250,000 Bibles for the nation's 270 million people—less than one Bible per thousand people. Bible-smuggling operations and illegal presses inside Russia help meet the demand for Scriptures, and Bibles confiscated at the borders are rarely destroyed, since they can be sold at a profit by customs officials.

Hospitals in India are a major means of evangelism. One Indian Christian estimates that one-third of those from non-Christian backgrounds who become Christians do so through contact with a medical facility. Eighteen percent of the medical work in India is done by the 2.6 percent of the population that is Christian.

LCMS APPROACHES OTHER LUTHERANS ABOUT POSSIBLE FELLOWSHIP TALKS

ST. LOUIS — Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President J.A.O. Preus has appointed Synod representatives to inter-Lutheran and ecumenical discussions for the next two

years. He is also sending letters to the presidents of a number of other Lutheran bodies to determine whether those churches that have not been holding discussions with the LCMS might be interested in initiating them or if those bodies that are conducting discussions would want to continue them.

The latter is in keeping with a 1977 LCMS convention resolution that calls on the Synod president "... to initiate and/or continue discussions with all Lutheran church bodies regarding fellowship."

The presidents being contacted by letter about the possibility of beginning discussions are those of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC); the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), the Evangelical Lutheran Federation (ELF), the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC), the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (CLBA), and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA).

Named as representatives to possible new fellowship discussions are the following: with the AELC—Dr. August Bernthal, Winter Haven, Fla., Dr. Wilbert H. Rosin, Milwaukee, Wis., and Dr. Robert C. Sauer, St. Louis, Mo.; with the WELS—Dr. J. A. O. Preus, St. Louis, Dr. Karl L. Barth, Wauwatosa, Wis., Rev. Samuel H. Nafzger, St. Louis, Dr. Theodore F. Nickel, Lake Geneva, Wis., and Dr. Howard W. Tepker, Fort Wayne, Ind.; with the ELS—Dr. Robert D. Preus, Ft. Wayne, Rev. Kurt Marquart, Ft. Wayne, Rev. Richard H. Warneck, Manchester, Mo., Dr. Karl L. Barth, and Rev. Samuel H. Nafzger; with the ELF—Dr. Robert D. Preus, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, St. Louis, and Rev. Jerald C. Joersz, St. Louis; with the AFLC and the CLBA—Dr. Robert Preus, Dr. J. A. O. Preus,

and Rev. Dean O. Wenthe, Atlantic, Ia.; with the LCA—Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Dr. Karl Barth, Rev. Lloyd Behnkin, Orlando, Fla., Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, Rev. Kurt Marquart and Rev. Samuel Nafzger.

The following were named as LCMS representatives to existing dialog and fellowship groups: Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialog—Dr. Fred Kramer, Springfield, Ill.; Lutheran-Episcopal dialog—Rev. George W. Bornemann, Detroit, Dr. H. Armin Moellering, Palisades Park, N.J., and Dr. Norman E. Nagel, Valparaiso, Ind.; Lutheran-Methodist dialog—Rev. Jerrold A. Eickmann, St. Louis, Rev. Arthur J. Crosmer, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and Dr. Willis L. Wright, Selma, Ala.; American Lutheran Church /LCMS Commission on Fellowship—Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Dr. Karl L. Barth, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, Rev. Lloyd Behnken, Rev. Kurt Marquart, and Rev. Samuel Nafzger; and as liaison to the Lutheran Church in Canada Joint Commission on Inter-Lutheran Relations—Rev. Roland Hopmann.

ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDE ON RELIGION MAY CHANGE, SAYS CHURCH LEADER

Berlin, West—(LC)—The attitude of the military regime in Ethiopia toward the churches in the country has become less bitter recently. The general secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus, the Rev. Gudina Tumsa who recently visited West Berlin, reported here that the situation of a few weeks ago has changed and that the churches at present apparently enjoy a relative freedom of action.

The director of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony, Dr. Reinhart Miller, also told the Protestant Press Service enquiry that there were signs recently that the government in Addis Ababa was seeking more contact with the churches. It

was not clear, however, whether this indicated fundamental change or whether it was merely due to the difficult political and military situation in the country.

Mr. Tumsa stated that, while the government insists that Christians "are free," there are about 3,000 official activist groups agitating under the slogan—"Religion is not for the good of the people."

Mekane Yesus Church, he said, which has about 350,000 members, is worried because, while agreeing with

[Continued on page 14]

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