

October 3, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador



**REV. RICHARD SNIPSTEAD
NEW PRESIDENT OF THE AFLC**

MEDITATION MOMENTS

A WORTHY RACE

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:1, 2).

Run the race with endurance. That is a worthy goal. The writer of this letter has just given us some tremendous examples (ch. 11) of people who ran the race and completed the course. It wasn't always easy, but they endured.

The Christian life is characterized here as a race. That sounds so hard. “No wonder I'm always behind; I never was much good at running.” But it isn't as though we don't have enough encouragement. We have the witness of those gone on before and certainly there are many faithful saints around today who can cheer us on. And best of all, we can see the goal: Jesus. Paul says, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:14).

If this is to be achieved, it will not come from periodic bursts of spiritual

speed, but rather from running “with endurance” the race set before us. At least two things necessary for a successful race are mentioned here.

The first of these is laying aside the encumbrances. Since there can be many things which slow us down along the way, these must be recognized and then thrown off. A successful racer must not be tied down. One kind of race which may illustrate this is the sack race, where two people run, each with one leg in the same sack. Such races also have a goal or finish line, but getting there is more than half the fun. There's so much to enjoy along the way. Reaching the goal is easier when you are alone and not tied down with someone else—or a sack. Lay aside the hindrance, and it will go much better. Many Christians are running the race, trying very hard, but still running with the sack. It is something that hasn't been set aside, a sin that entangles us.

The other matter to be considered is endurance, lasting through to the end. It's a long race, and short sprints will not be very effective in the long run. A man had just broken the world's record for the fastest mile ever run on an indoor track. He said, “I don't win these contests—God does! He has given me all I have. I wasn't able to do the one

thing coaches say a long-distance runner must do. I couldn't sprint at the end of the race. But the Lord took care of that. In place of the sprint He gave me stamina.” That's the endurance to run consistently from the beginning to the end of the race.

Many people develop a sudden burst of enthusiasm for the Lord as a result of some religious emphasis week or church revival. But this soon fades out and they drop back until the next burst comes along. That's much different from serving the Lord faithfully from day to day. To develop endurance we must fix the gaze of our souls on the Savior, the author and perfecter of that faith. “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face.” He endured, and sat down at the throne of grace.

Do not think of fatigue, or failure; do not envy those whose victories seem to be more easily won. The way is set; do not seek a smoother, shorter course to the crown. Then one day you may say with Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (II Tim 4:7), and receive the crown of righteousness.

—Wesley Langaas

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CONFIRMATION

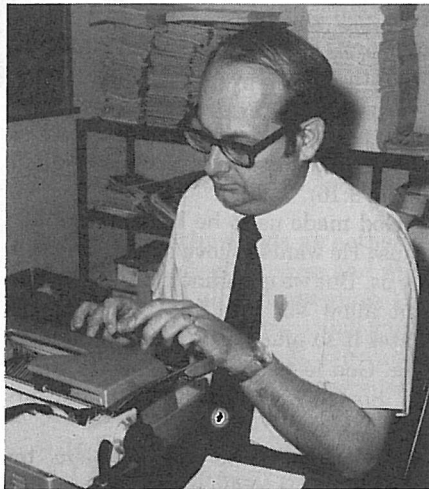
by Pastor Dennis Gray
Spicer, Minn.

The Scriptures command parents to train their children (Proverbs 22:6). This training seems a must in view of today's trying times. There are so many different forces which are destroying the family, the church and the Christian way of life. All this makes it absolutely necessary to train our children in eternal values. It also makes it necessary for us to continue to study God's Word.

Many families leave the training of their children up to the Sunday School and, later, up to the pastor. They neglect their own spiritual lives as well. Yet, they bring their children to the Lord in Holy Baptism, bring them to Sunday School and see to it they are "confirmed." After confirmation instruction is over, they breathe some kind of a sigh of relief and the church hardly ever sees the parents or their children again. Training a child begins in the cradle, however, and it continues until the young adult leaves home.

Such breathing of relief is a grave sin. While there are many fine Christians interested in the spiritual welfare of the child, the parents must take care of their own spiritual needs and also take the primary responsibility for the spiritual training of their children. The local congregation and its pastor should be a helper to the family. In no way should the local congregation and the pastor carry the entire responsibility of training in eternal matters.

The Bible teaches us that spiritual life is given through Baptism. Baptism is a means of grace. An individual enters into a covenant relationship with Jesus in Baptism. This life must be fed the Word of God and parents



Pastor Dennis Gray

should give their children an example to follow.

While it is possible for a child to remain in the covenant of Baptism, it is necessary for him to make a decision for Christ on his own. He must come to a vital, personal, conscious relationship with Jesus. This is the primary purpose of Confirmation instruction. We could call this "renewing" the Baptismal covenant.

Confirmation is not a means of grace. It is an intense two or three year period of study. In Confirmation the Word of God and the doctrines of the church are carefully studied.

Baptism linked with confirmation instruction or the rite of Confirmation does not save, nor does it guarantee heaven. Only a right personal relationship with Jesus can do these things.

The service of Confirmation is intended to be a witness of a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Baptismal renewal must precede this day. A

witness of faith cannot be given by an unsaved confirmand. Any youth giving a false account of faith should know the seriousness of the matter. The person should be warned about taking Holy Communion (I Corinthians 11:27).

A Few Helpful Suggestions

1. Set aside lesson and memorization times. Help your confirmand as much as possible. Fathers, your help is especially needed. Where fathers are active in the things of the Lord, there is a greater number who receive the Lord Jesus Christ!
2. Know the assignments and be certain your son or daughter carries them out. Make Confirmation instruction just as important, if not more important, than school work or athletics! Be certain you review the memory work and that all assignments are in on time!
3. *Do not use Confirmation instruction as a form of punishment.* Rebellion can be taught by doing this! Such stifles the purpose of the instruction.
4. Pray for your Confirmand. Strive to see that you and he are in church and in Sunday School. Attend Bible Study and prayer times in your church.

Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity! Yes, there will be extra trips in the car and a crowded schedule to meet. These years will soon be over, however. It will be worth it all to see your children grow up to love the Lord and to work for Him!

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

LET'S LOOK AT THAT VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

This verse is probably the most widely known verse in the Bible among Christians. It is a clear statement of the simple truth that God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die so that we could have eternal life with Him in heaven. All that I have to do is believe in Jesus, that is, realize that He died for my sins, and personally invite Him into my heart, giving Him full control of my whole life. I know that many of you who are reading this have probably made that very decision and you know what it is to have Jesus in your life. But please take a minute with me to consider one question: Do we really believe what God is saying in John 3:16?

"For God so loved the world . . ." Isn't it amazing that God would even consider loving us? With all of our failures and faults and bad habits? But He does. He loves us more than anything in the world! But that leads us to another question: If God loves us so much and we love God so much, how much time do we spend alone with each other? I was talking with a group of my Christian friends and I asked them, "Do you love God?" What a silly question! Of course, they all love God! They are all Christians! Then I asked them, "Why do you love God?" They must have thought I was "nuts" to ask such a silly question. "Because He saved me," answered one girl. "Because He forgave me." "Because He

died for me." All of their answers were about things that Jesus had done for them individually when they asked Him to come into their hearts.

Then I asked the last question, "If you love God so much, HOW MUCH TIME do you spend GETTING TO KNOW HIM each day?" By being honest with each other, we found that in our group, *15 minutes or less* out of our day was spent in a special time alone with God, to study His word and talk with Him. Normally, when we really love someone, it's natural to want to spend time with them. God wants to let you get to know Him intimately, and in spending time with Him you will learn things that are so amazing you cannot even imagine what they are (Jeremiah 33:3)!

" . . . that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God made us to be His children because He wants to love us and be loved by us. But we are sinners and God cannot allow sin into His presence, He hates it so much. So we have a dilemma. God loves us, but hates the sin in us. Sort of like a skunk. Cute, but un-touchable.

But God solved the problem by sending Jesus to die to pay the penalty for our sin, so that if we personally ask him into our hearts, God will forgive us because of what Jesus did on the cross. That means that the only way God could solve the problem of our sin is through Jesus Christ and He is the ONLY WAY we can receive the gift of eternal life. But stop with me and consider this: *If that is true*, that Jesus is the only way to a right relationship with God, what am I doing to tell the people I know about Jesus? If Jesus is the only way, then my friends and family who don't know Jesus are *lost* and they are not going to heaven. Are we so worried about what our friends think about us, or what they might say about us, that we don't tell them the most important truth in the universe? Without Jesus, they live without hope for eternity. And God has given us the message of hope through Jesus. Do we share it?

It is one thing to say, "I love God" and "I believe that Jesus is the only way," but if it doesn't make a difference in the way we spend our time and

in the things that we hold most important in our hearts, then our "belief" is nothing more than words. God wants to give us love and blessing beyond our wildest imaginings. But it can only happen when we stop talking about knowing God and really begin to take time to KNOW God personally each day! It will change your life!

—Tad Spading

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN

. . . to write? The Luther League Activities page is open for your contributions of news, testimonies, announcements. Our Luther League president, Pastor Mellgren, has an announcement for you today. Write to me, Tad Spading, 10447 N.E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

A leadership retreat for all Luther League officers of the local congregations and districts as well as all advisors and pastors will be held Nov. 24-26 at Faithhaven Lodge near Battle Lake, Minn. The purpose of the retreat is to offer assistance and instruction to local and district Luther Leagues as well as an exchange of ideas.

This will be a refreshing time of fellowship and learning. Plan now to attend!

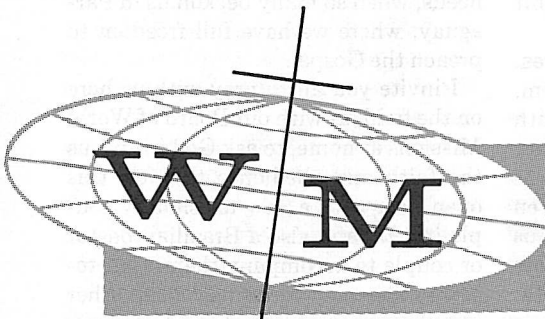
Further information regarding the schedule, costs, etc., will be made available to you soon. Please remember to pray for the retreat.

—Pastor Dale Mellgren LLF President

EDITOR OF THE AMBASSADOR RE-ELECTED

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., was re-elected editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador* by the Coordinating Committee at its September meeting. The term is for three years. Nominations had been made by the Annual Conference in June.

Pastor Huglen has served as editor since 1963.



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

“WE’VE A STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS”

by Missionary John Abel
Part II

Arriving there (Asuncion, Paraguay) in the early morning hours, I got a cab to the Mennonite motel in the center of the city and while talking to the head resident there, a young pastor from the Paraguay Bible Society drove in on his motor scooter. He offered to take me around to some of the churches in the city so I could interview some of the pastors. Thus I was able to talk to Bob Lemon of the Disciples of Christ Church, who has been involved in mission work, principally school work, in Paraguay since 1925 and is now quite an elderly gentleman. His group has only seven churches in the country and all are near the capital.

I visited the Brethren church. They also have no work along the borders of Paraguay. Then we dashed off to the Evangelical German Church, and on

the back seat of a motor scooter, this is what it seemed like we were doing, just dashing around in a melee of wild traffic. Not exactly what I would have chosen for ideal transportation, but I did have a good guide.

It was interesting to visit the headquarters of this German church. It belongs to what is called the Rio del Plata Synod and is comprised of part of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. I asked them if they were Lutheran, for it was not in their name. The pastor, about 30 years old, and only a few years out of Germany, Pastor Ihle Armin, said no. They were from the united church of Germany (EKID), which has both Lutherans and Reformed in it, and they used parts of both Luther’s Catechism and the Heidelberg (Calvinist) Catechism. He said that their principle goal was to reach the German-speaking people in their area and form them into churches. They had been working in Asuncion since 1893 and had about 250 families on their



Street markets sell everything in Paraguay.

membership rolls. Three other pastors were present for on the previous day a conference had ended in which six pastors in Paraguay had been together, and I had dinner with them in their small boarding school for children going to school in the capital city.

I found these men to be very liberal in both doctrine and life style. They have a beautiful church layout in the heart of Asuncion, built with money from Germany. Two of their men, Pastors Westermann and Malitte, work in the frontier areas, but preach mostly in German and try to minister to immigrants who use this language.

The following day I got on a bus that would carry me up the new road going north along the Parana River. The road is little more than a trail, as you can



A new town in the jungle started by Brazilian immigrants to Paraguay.



A road scene on the Paraguayan frontier.

see from the pictures accompanying this article. The first city on the road, however, is in a fast state of growth. Hernandarias is only about ten miles from the large Itaipu Dam which Paraguay and Brazil are building on their jointly-owned Parana River. It is also only about 20 miles from the second largest city of Paraguay, which I have spoken about, President Stroessner. A four-lane paved road is almost completed to this city and on to the dam site.

This dam, when completed, will be the largest dam in South America. There are six large housing projects for workers on this dam and many other workers have moved into Hernandarias. This city is quite old, actually having been a small settlement for many years, but in the last few years it has begun to expand and has over 50,000 people, making it larger than Campo Mourao. Many Brazilians live there, but I believe the population would be over 50 percent Paraguayan. From Hernandarias the road is narrow, rough and dusty; the towns are all new ones, from two to five years old. I visited five of them and found no pastors living in any. I had the privilege of having a Brazilian for my seat partner, who has been in Paraguay for ten years and is employed with the Paraguayan Health and Statistics Department. He gave me a lot of information on the Brazilian immigration movement into Paraguay. There are three large counties or colonies where the Brazilians have largely settled. One is called San-

ta Terezinha, the others Maracaju and Santa Rosa. I was able to visit the several towns in each of these last mentioned counties; time did not permit going to Santa Terezinha.

That night I got back to Pres. Stroessner late and got a hotel room. The next day I took a bus going south from the city into the area of Santa Rosa. In this direction the land was more sandy and the towns from seven to ten miles apart. The largest towns on the road for about 70 miles south are Narajal, Vila Gaucha and Santa Rosa. They perhaps have no more than several hundred souls but are constantly growing as new farms open up in the area and small businessmen are attracted into the towns. From the last city of Santa Rosa, it is about 80 miles to the Argentine border and I understand there is a large city on each side of this border. I did not get up that far as it would have involved going by private jeep transportation over small jungle roads and I had no possibility for that.

Regarding Argentina, I did not make a trip into their jungle area of Missones because my time was limited and I had been informed by various sources, especially the Presbyterian Brazilian pastor Manoel Calasa, that it is very difficult and even dangerous at this time to try to do open evangelistic work in Argentina. The political and economic crisis there makes it almost impossible to do more than minister to your own little group that may already exist. Since we as an AFLC would have

only one missionary couple available for this new outreach it seemed to me to be superfluous to look for more needs, when so many beckon us in Paraguay, where we have full freedom to preach the Gospel.

I invite you all to pray with us here on the field, as with our Board of World Missions at home, to ask God to give us the faith and obedience to enter this open door with a new missionary couple in 1979 and also a Brazilian pastor or couple to accompany them, that together they may encourage one another in opening up new free Lutheran congregations in Paraguay. It is good to do church planting and expansion when the area is new and the people open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have waited and hesitated long enough. Let us march forward and help conquer a new nation for Christ.

EVIL THOUGHTS

Dear friend, never excuse these evil thoughts. Bring them to Jesus and receive His forgiveness. The consciousness in your heart that they are forgiven will rob them of their evil influence. And yet you must struggle manfully against them in the name and in the strength of Jesus.

F. Hammarsten



Brazilian immigrant children.



Felled trees which have not been burned as yet.



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



THE STORY OF HAZEL MINER

Dad yawned as he woke from a Sunday afternoon nap in the hammock as the kitchen crew—Steve, Mark, and Ann—came out on the porch and slumped into chairs and rockers nearby. Melissa left her dollhouse out under the trees, and joined them. It was an exceptionally warm spring day.

“What’ll we do?” asked Mark.

“Too hot to play croquet. Or anything,” decided Stephen.

“Dad, tell us a story about some really truly people,” begged Melissa.

“Yeah, Dad, how about a story that happened in winter? Might help us cool off,” suggested Mark.

“Well, I do know a story about a girl who once lived on a farm west of the Missouri River, out in Oliver County. And her story is a wonder story.

“It happened long ago in March, 1920. This girl, Hazel Miner, was at a country school like yours when a terrible blizzard hit. The snow came down so thick that Hazel wasn’t able to see the school barn where her horse was sheltered. So she was very much relieved when her father came to help her and the younger brother and sister get home in their sled.

“Hazel’s father first hitched her horse to the sled. He told her he would ride his own horse and lead the children’s horse behind him.

“Then he went to get his own horse. He had tied it to a post nearby. It was just a little distance away, but the storm was so bad that the father right away disappeared from sight. Suddenly, there was an extra strong wind, and the children’s horse got excited, and started out. Hazel couldn’t stop the horse because it had only a halter on, since Hazel’s father had planned to

lead it home. The horse went with the wind, and Hazel knew they must go against the wind in order to get home.

“In just a few minutes, Hazel realized that her father couldn’t possibly find them in the storm.

“The horse stumbled into a slough, and there a tug unhooked. Hazel got out of the sled, and into the water. You see, blizzards often come right after a spell of warm weather—and this blizzard struck after several days when the weather had been so warm that a lot of the snow had melted. In order to get the tug hooked, Hazel had to wade up to her hips in water. Then she took the horse by the halter and led him to dry ground.

“Next thing the sled tipped over in a coulee. Hazel wasn’t able to get it back upright. There was a canvas covering over the top of the sled. She ripped this right off and spread it on the ground in the shelter of the upturned sled. Then she got her younger sister and brother to lie down on this piece of canvas. There were just a few blankets, and she covered them as well as she could. All the time her own wet clothes kept freezing stiff.

“It was soon dark. Hazel kept flapping her arms about herself to try to keep her blood circulating, and stay warm. She did not dare to lie down with the children for fear she might get drowsy. Besides, the blankets were just enough to keep the two younger ones warm.

“So, for hours, that night, Hazel walked back and forth beside the children. She sang to them, and told them all the stories she could think of, and she kept warning them not to let themselves fall asleep or they would never wake up.

“Finally, a terrible gust of wind tore the blankets right off the children. Hazel grabbed the blankets, and covered her sister and brother again. Very soon afterwards, the wind tore the blankets off again. So this next time, when Hazel had covered the children again, she lay down on top of them to keep the blankets from being blown off them.

“That was the way the neighbors found Hazel Miner the next day. She was dead, with her arms stretched protectingly around her little brother and sister—they were safe, and they are living today.

“Out on the courthouse grounds at Center, North Dakota, there’s a monument to this unselfish girl. There’s a Bible verse engraved on that monument. It is: ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends’ ” (John 15:13).

MEMORY VERSE: Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 (RSV)

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Hazel Miner died while trying to protect her brother and sister. In a sense, is it possible to “lay down one’s life” without actually dying for someone, or for some cause? (Matthew 16:25)

2. Think of people you know, or people that you have read about who gave up great possessions, or an important position, in order to be of Christian service.

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MR. MOBERG ORDAINED AT ASTORIA

William M. Moberg, 1978 graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, was ordained at his home church, Bethany Lutheran, Astoria, Oregon, September 3.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, president-elect of the AFLC, was the evening speaker and officiated at the ordination service.

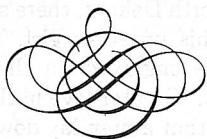
Pastors participating in the service were Bill Moberg's father-in-law, Pastor Ray Persson from Bemidji, Minn., and West Coast pastors Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, Ore., Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., Hans Tollefson, Astoria, Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash., and Alvin Grothe, Astoria.

Special music was provided by the Bethany Choir.

Greetings from various churches, friends and relatives were read by Pastor Persson.

The service was preceded by a fellowship dinner.

Pastor and Mrs. Bill Moberg have been called to serve the Lord at Ortley, S. Dak., and began work there on Sept. 17.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEFTOVERS

A number of items were left at the Bible School and Seminary in Minneapolis at the time of the 1978 Annual Conference. They may be secured from the office in the church building (Attn: Mrs. Dyrud, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.)

- 1 man's wristwatch
- 1 white sweater, girl's size M, Sears label
- 1 green sweater, ladies, perhaps size L
- 1 blue light-weight car coat with hood, ladies, size L

There is also a pair of men's sunglasses, tan frame, left in the boys' dorm from the time of the 1977 Bible School graduation.

Perhaps I was DREAMING

THE ALPHABET

For two hours I had been pecking away at my typewriter—that indispensable adjunct to modern civilization without which the greatest ideas of the ages would not have been recorded—and I was weary of the irregular clickety-click-click-click.

After reclining for a few minutes, with eyes closed, to recover a little calm and repose, I looked over my work to see if I had made any mistakes. I had. In one place I had said—or tried to say—"He fired a deadly bullet at her head, then fled to the wild woods." But I had hit the wrong key at one point, and this is what I actually had written, "He fired a deadly pullet at her head . . ."

The Lord has blessed me with some sense of humor and enabled me to laugh at my own mistakes—provided of course they are not of a serious nature—so I indulged in a hearty laugh. Then I was in a mood to think more seriously about the problems of life.

Not long ago I was visiting an old schoolmate of mine who is now teaching Latin in a Presbyterian college. In our conversation he told me that he had come upon a linguistic curiosity which had interested him a great deal. "You remember," he said, "that according to St. John, Pilate, while questioning Jesus, asked, 'What is truth?' Did you ever notice the wording of this in the Vulgate?"

I had to admit that I had not. Thereupon he picked up a box of alphabet blocks with which his little grandson had been playing. Out of it he picked a number of blocks and arranged them in the following order: *Quid est veritas?* "What is truth?" "How many letters in that?" he asked.

I counted. "Fourteen."

"Correct. Now the curious thing is that these same letters can be so arranged as to give the answer to the question. Let me show you." In a few moments he had rearranged them, and this is what I read: *Est vir qui adest.* "It is the man who stands before you."

"Isn't that curious?" he continued. "Pilate required fourteen letters for his question, and the same fourteen letters furnish the answer. *Quid est veritas? Est vir qui adest.* What is truth? It is the Man who stands before you—the

(Continued on page 9)

editorials

BISHOP LAJOS ORDASS

When I read in early September of the death of Bishop Lajos Ordass of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, memories were re-ignited of my one contact with him.

It was at the Lutheran World Federation meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the summer of 1957. There were several men present who attracted special attention, among them Bishop Hanns Lilje of Germany, who had suffered under the Nazis in the Second World War. But no one captured the imagination of the Assembly more than Bishop Ordass.

Perhaps it was because he came from a country controlled by a Communist and unsympathetic regime and he knew that hostile opposition, perhaps death, awaited him on his return home. I didn't hear him say it personally, but he told the Assembly that he was willing to face whatever might come.

(Continued from page 8)

Man who already had said, I am the truth. . . . If only poor Pilate could have seen it!"

That set me thinking of many other things. I remembered how once upon a time our faith in the divinity of the Lord Jesus hung upon one letter of the alphabet, and I began to realize what a wonderful thing the alphabet is—this incoherent group of twenty-six little curves and lines and dots. In themselves they mean nothing (except perhaps to the specialist who may trace their development from the time when their ancestors were pictures of actual objects), but when combined—what nonsense, or sense, they may express!

Verily, the alphabet is a marvelous thing. The mighty

One evening before a session I was within several feet of him on the convention floor of the Minneapolis Auditorium. I didn't meet him, but it was a thrill for me to be that close to someone who might in a short while face death for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Martyrdom wasn't required of him, but he was ready for it. That simple, unassuming man left a great impression on many Americans, and certainly on his own countrymen.

I realize that his name may be completely unknown to many of our readers now, but at one time it stirred and thrilled the hearts of brethren in the faith. Bishop Ordass was one of the modern day heroes of faith in Jesus.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

On October 1 Rev. Richard Snipstead began his duties as president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We welcome him to this work and pray God's rich blessings upon him. May the Lord enable and strengthen him. Let us uphold him at the throne of grace.

Pastor Snipstead brings a wealth of pastoral and administrative experience to his new position and these will stand him in good stead, for what is a church president but a pastor charged with leading a fellowship of local churches in God's work?

He will immediately become involved in visiting congregations and pastors, getting to know each better, even though he is already acquainted with every pastor and has been in most of the churches before.

May Pastor Snipstead enter upon and continue in his work as president with much joy. May he sense singleness of purpose in Association work and always challenge our people to commitment to Christ and greater usefulness in the Kingdom outreach.

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father . . . that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:14, 16).

tragedies of Shakespeare, the lofty organ of Milton, the eloquence of Chrysostom, the tenderness of Dickens, the piety of Thomas a Kempis, the raillery of Voltaire, the smut of Boccaccio, the holy words of Jesus—they are all expressed by these odd, scrawny little symbols. They are means by which soul communes with soul, nation with nation, and age with age.

We dip freely into the inexhaustible ocean of the alphabet, combining and recombining the queer little figures with never a thought of their potency. But when we pause before them and remember what they have done—what infinite harm, what eternal good—is there not something awe-inspiring about them?

—C. A. Wendell

NEWS of the Churches

VBS CONDUCTED AT MEDICINE LAKE LUTHERAN

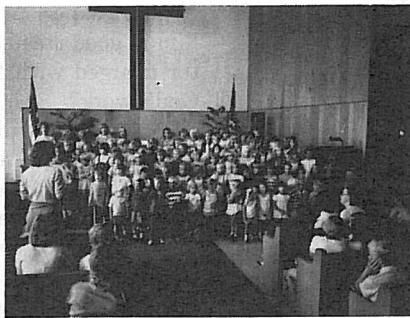
Summer provides an excellent opportunity to reach out into the community to teach children the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on August 14-18, was blessed with one hundred young lives for three hours each day.

The week closed on Friday with a picnic and afternoon program. The children responded generously with a \$134.27 offering for "pews for Brazil." Mrs. Wayne Pederson directed VBS again this year.

Rev. J. G. Erickson is pastor of the congregation.



Little Miss Muffet? A girl and her lunch at Medicine Lake.



The VBS at Medicine Lake

A FULL WEEK AT TRIUMPH LUTHERAN, NOGALES

Two things were in progress at Triumph Lutheran, Nogales, Ariz., at the same time, Vacation Bible School and the building of a 28 x 42 foot addition for classrooms.

Praying had been a part of the preparation for a few months before; also, a lot of hard work had been done, especially by Miss Elaine Knutson and Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson. So, as we came to the date August 14th, the church van and other cars and drivers were ready to bring in the children we had prayed the Lord to send us. The 12-passenger van made two trips and was filled each time, not with 12, but 20 to 30.

Eighty-eight were registered the first day and by the end of five days we had registered 120. The average attendance was 90. Fifty-one had perfect attendance. A great group of children of great variety. Some spoke little or no

English, but Jesus loves them all.

God answered prayer also in providing teachers of the best for the 3-year-olds through young teens: Mrs. Dick (Clara) Gunderson, World Mission Prayer League missionary wife, formerly of Bolivia and now here at the border and Mexico; Mrs. Dick (Lois) Peterson, newly-commissioned to the WMPL border and Mexico work; Mrs. (Eloise) Reay, one of our own Sunday School girls since three years of age, now an experienced public school teacher; Miss Elaine Knutson, experienced in teaching and mission work in Bolivia and Ecuador under the WMPL; Miss Hildur Melgren, experienced teacher from our Nogales Public Schools and who has taught missionary children in Brazil; and Mr. James Lindgren, of the youth class (12 registered), a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School and now attending Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He taught in the mornings and gave full afternoons and Saturday on building the walls of the church addition. Each teacher also had an able and willing helper or two.

The mission story was told each day by Sylvia Berge, WMPL-retired missionary from Bolivia. Mrs. Leonard Swanson, who also has been a missionary in Madagascar, Mexico and on the border, was our able pianist. Three classes had individual music periods with Mrs. Swanson and Mrs. Dynneson. Mrs. Dynneson was the general superintendent and also secretary. Some of our dear ladies provided cookies and served them out under a tree as the kitchen was occupied with a class. Mrs. Dick (Alice) Richardson was in charge.

Pastor Ken Thompson, also with missionary and teaching experience, took care of the discipline and games at recess time. We thank God for this fine staff. Leonard Swanson emptied his Rawleigh truck to haul tables and chairs back and forth and made several trips for children and was a helper in crafts and managed to carry some adobe bricks in the afternoon for the building. Steve Mundfrom was a teacher's helper and also gave full afternoons and Saturday to the construction work. Two of our Mexican students, Juan and Antonio Ojeda, also appeared every afternoon to help.

Now a word about our building program. The building was needed for our DVBS, but we were privileged to use the Swanson and Mundfrom homes for two classes. Isaiah 54:2a, 3a: "Enlarge the place of your tent. . . For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left." So it is we have been praying, and saving some building fund money and working hard to prepare the area. We had the cement floor poured, 2,000 burnt adobe blocks on hand, also sand and 50 sacks of rich mortar.

Frank Mejia, one of our own former Sunday School boys since three years of age, wanted to lay the blocks. Frank is a college student, lives in Phoenix and is aiming for the ministry through our seminary. This building project has not been without obstacles. Cement has been hard to get in Arizona and expensive. Then, when Frank was to come, he had an accident on National Guard duty. He bruised his ankle and broke his glasses. However, he came Tuesday noon and carried on with a hurting ankle and eyes straining through the week. I, Pastor Dynneson, mortar mixer and general helper, had an obstacle thrown in my way, too. A bit of sun stroke on Thursday night caused chills and sleeplessness. I carried on a little more slowly for the rest of the week.

After a busy week, James Lindgren and Frank Mejia spoke at our Sunday morning worship service, August 20th.

Almost two weeks ago our church council met to face the problem of a depleted building fund. We have spent some already from our General Fund. Since then \$135.00 has been received. We still have the roof to put on, partitions and most of the wiring, heating, etc., to take care of. Our walls are up to five feet. Frank hopes to return on weekends. We are doing most of the work ourselves. A great deal of the help has been our youth and they will be going to school soon. Any workers coming this way? Any prayers? Any financial help? Any little bit would help. It is the Lord's work. Let's be co-workers with Him, building on to build lives for the Lord.

P.S. The Ardin Lundin family furnished two Pinata and candy the last day so each pupil went home with candy, a balloon, a book and a tract.

—Pastor L. C. Dynneson

LAKE BRONSON FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

Family Camp (July 24-30) was a wonderful blessing again this year. As of Saturday, approximately 180 campers were registered. Each day began with devotions and a large, delicious breakfast prepared by Mr. Cliff Holm and assistants.

The children spent the full morning in singing and Bible stories led by Judith Wold, the teachers and helpers. They prepared a program for us, which we heard on Saturday evening.

Pastor Fred Carlson led the confirmation group in a study of the book of James. In this class they studied the ways the devil tempts and the ways God tests. They also considered the subject of trials bringing about patience and how important God's Word should be in our lives.

Bruce Dalager led the senior high students in topics such as obedience, prayer, witnessing and fellowship.

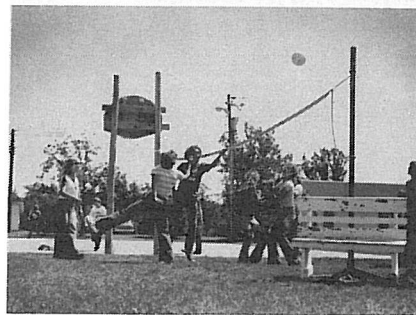
Seminarian James Gerdeen led the adult Bible class on the subject of spiritual gifts. He shed new light on the importance of spiritual gifts in the church. Each was encouraged by Dr. Gerdeen to discover his spiritual gift, whether it be one of teacher, encourager, giver, intercessor, minister, etc.

Pastor Kenneth Moland discussed the roles of parents during the family hour each morning. Among the many roles parents must play, according to Pastor Moland, are those of being a priest, teacher, counselor and disciplinarian.

Softball, volleyball, swimming and horseshoes were some of the sports organized for afternoon recreation. One afternoon the campers took on the staff



Caught at KP



Volleyball action at Family Camp.

members in a softball game. Of course, the campers won and the losers took KP for the evening meal.

The camp choir, led by Mr. Don Rodvold, sang in the evening services. Pastor Terry Olson was the camp evangelist. Psalm 27 was the text for most of the evenings. We were challenged by David's confident words of trust in God alone. We were exhorted to realize God's mighty power and strength by giving our lives completely over to Him.

The days closed with campfire and devotions, in which Christians encouraged and challenged one another in songs and testimonies.

—Photos and Report by Lori Gerdeen

I LONG TO VISIT ISRAEL

I long to visit Israel,
To tread the dusty roads Christ trod;
To cross the centuries and stand
Where He stood when He taught of
God;
To listen where the shepherds heard
The heavens break and angels sing;
To kneel where Eastern sages knelt
When they beheld the newborn King;
To pray in gray Gethsemane,
To walk the sorrowful cross's way,
To come upon the empty tomb
In the first glimmering of day.
And yet Christ stands beside me here
To guide my daily task,
A living presence through the years,
What more joy could I ask?
Though He decrees I cannot hold
The stone His hand has touched,
Yet He has clasped my heart to His,
And He has given me enough.

Marlene Moline
Lansing, Iowa



THE LORD IS WORKING

God is so good.

Just read your magazine, *The Lutheran Ambassador*. What a thrill to hear what the Lord is doing. I am way off in Florida land and it is so good to hear how things are going back up in Minnesota. I have recently moved here. I had the privilege of being a counselor at your Bible Camp (family) this past summer at Lake Bronson, Minn. What a thrilling experience that was to see souls won for Jesus Christ and to see what is happening even after camp as I receive such wonderful letters from campers telling that they are growing with Jesus.

I am so glad that you are keeping that camp going as I see so many lives being changed through it all.

I want to thank you for the privilege of being a counselor at your camp because it has been enlightening to me. God is really showing me the areas I need to grow in and He's helping me to become bolder and bolder for Jesus Christ. What a privilege to share God's salvation plan with a soul that is going lost.

Since I have moved to Florida, I had a chance to teach Vacation Bible School and had the privilege of leading five more young people to the Lord and today as I was out with another lady on a visitation program for our church, we had the privilege of sharing Jesus Christ with a very lovely lady and she gave her heart and life over to the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! Isn't He good and He's getting better every day. I look forward to each tomorrow as

another day to talk to someone about my precious Jesus.

Please pray for me as I minister to others and their needs, as I will be praying for your ministry. May the Lord truly bless you. Greetings to all those I got to know at Bible Camp. Jesus will meet your every need as He has mine. Praise the Lord, He has healed me and I no longer need to take all that medication.

—Nellie Sealy
Naples, Florida

NORTHERN LUTHERAN LAYMEN TO MEET

The Northern Lutheran Laymen will hold their monthly meeting on Sunday, October 22, at Westaker Lutheran Church in Newfolden, Minn., beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The text for discussion will be Rev. 2:18-29.

Arthur Joppru, Chm.
Joe Jacobson, Sec.

HOME MISSION TEAM

August 17 ended twelve weeks of home mission ministry by the first AFLBS Home Mission team. The time was spent assisting four new AFLC churches in reaching out to the local communities.

Karen Livingood, Nadine Solberg and Erling Langness were reminded daily of I Corinthians 1:18. "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." God's power was evident as the team canvassed neighborhoods and DVBS classes multiplied.

The team members were also kept busy with youth groups, evening services, church picnics, a camping trip and profiting from a variety of family life situations as each church's members provided housing and meals.

AFLC churches in Dickinson and Minot, North Dakota, Amery, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, Minnesota provided the team with the home mission building challenges. The work done in His Name is continuing. One team member evaluated the summer's ministry by saying, "It was good to learn to step out in faith and let God bring the results."

ABIDE WITH ME

The Crucified and Risen Lord
Has paid my debt of sin,
And by the Spirit and the Word
He helps me now to win.

To serve the Lord, who died, for me,
Shall be my first concern,
To follow Him, who set me free,
For this my heart must yearn.

To Him who sought me, vile and lost,
And raised me from my fall,
To Him I yield at any cost
And now surrender all.

But fill me, Lord, with love divine
And power to keep this vow!
Lord, take my will and make it Thine,
Take full possession now!

My earnest vow is all in vain
Without Thy grace and power;
If I shall tried and true remain,
Abide with me each hour!

Abide with me lest I shall stray;
This is my prayerful plea;
Abide with me by night and day,
Abide, dear Lord, with me!

(Tune: My God, How Wonderful
Thou Art)
C. K. Solberg

REV. ANKER S. BERG

Rev. Anker S. Berg, 78 died in early September in Minneapolis, Minn. A retired teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Minneapolis, he was ordained into the clergy of the Lutheran Free Church in 1924. He had pastoral experience in Chicago, Minneapolis, Brooklyn and Tacoma, Wash., and also taught for three years at Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, N. Dak.

A native of Fredrikstad, Norway, and an immigrant to the U. S. in 1904, he was a graduate of Augsburg College and Theological Seminary, Minneapolis.

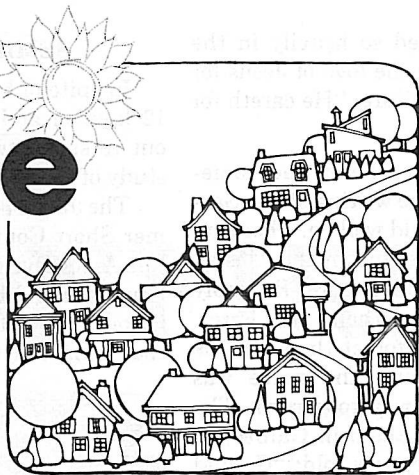
He is survived by his wife Marion and a daughter, Alice Ruth.

Blessed be his memory.

In the conflict between God and the world every Christian must take his stand under the banner of the cross without mental reservation or double-dealing.

F. Hammarsten

Life on the Edge of Town



Recollections

In an editorial I have recounted a memory concerning Bishop Ordass, who died this past summer. Now I mention a personal note about two other men whose decease has been noted in the *Ambassador*.

The first is Pastor Lowell Nerge. He is the first man with whom I attended seminary to pass away, to my knowledge. In all there were perhaps 35 of us over the three year period. We thought Lowell bore a marked physical resemblance to Martin Luther, the young Luther, at least, and so if there were any portrayal of the Reformer to be made in our classroom, such as on his birthday (Nov. 10) or Reformation Day, Lowell played the part.

The second is Pastor Anker Berg, who taught at the Lutheran Bible Institute for many years. He was the Bible teacher at the first Bible camp I ever saw or attended, the one at Warren, Minn. He led us in a study of Philipians, the first of several in my life, and a book which I later on came to teach myself. The other day I came across those notes again from his class out of my teenage years. Pastor Berg was a big man and he left a big place, I am sure, in the lives of those to whom he taught and preached the Word of God.

Preparation for Winter

The work may not all be done in the fall, perhaps some it came in the sum-

mer, but it is preparation for winter nevertheless.

From the nearby woods we gathered a good harvest of wild plums and wild cranberries. Not as well known as the plums are the cranberries, which make excellent jelly and a thick red sauce which, when flavored by cream and sugar, makes a fine dessert.

With the help of a chain saw this year, I have cut up some dead or fallen trees and am chopping them for firewood. There is some poplar, some ash and some oak. We also have some lumber scraps for kindling. It will all be used in our old kitchen range in the basement for supplemental heat. Handling the wood reminds me of the hours my brother and I spent as boys dragging dry trees out of the woods from spring to fall to heat our cookstove. It was hard, hot work, but now I enjoy the physical exercise getting a wood supply provides.

Still no frost (Sept. 18) and we enjoy to have the leaves with us as long as possible. Many flowers are blooming nicely, including some in the vegetable garden. The weather has been cooler and grayer of late, but it is a pleasant season of the year.

Activity at the Schools

I had the opportunity to be on the campus of our Bible School and Seminary the second week in Sept. It was the first week of Bible School work, the second for the Seminary.

This is my second year away from AFLBS and that means that the student body is completely new, except for two girls who have returned after a year's absence. And then there are some whom I have known from before, including last year's choral club tour. Don Rodvold told me that he's going to have to make the choral club an all-girls' group this year because the ratio of boys to girls is lower than last year.

Took in the devotions on second floor of the boys' dorm the night I spent there. The group was earnest and sincere. I counted seven fellows present who had older brothers and sisters at school in my years there, maybe more than one. Later I learned that there was an eighth. So some families have built up real traditions about AFLBS. May the fellows and girls keep up their group prayer lives, too, throughout the year. The importance of that just can't be over-emphasized.

There are some changes at Medicine Lake. Cliff Holm has exchanged his hammer and saw for a cook's cap. Gordie and Marion Grage occupy the cabin now. There's a fine new sign at the entrance to the campus, a memorial from the estate of Paul Bjornstad, Duluth, Minn. We look forward to our first news from this school year at AFLBS in our next issue.

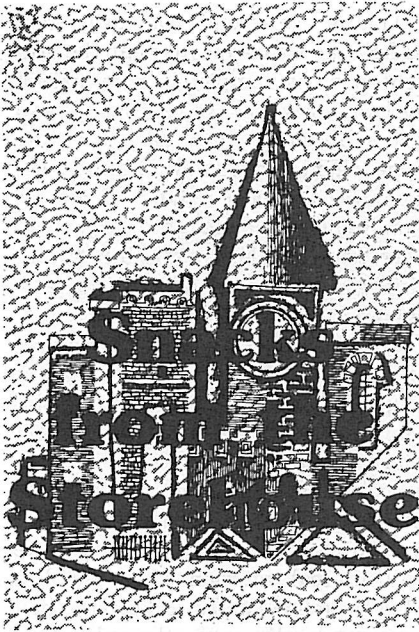
—Raynard Huglen

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Ernest J. Langness has accepted a call to serve the Faith, S. Dak., parish (Bethel and Emmanuel) and will take up work there about Nov. 1. He is currently serving at Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., where he and his wife have lived since 1971.

New address in Minot, N. Dak., for *Rev. and Mrs. Terry Olson* is 1701 Terrace Drive. Pastor Olson serves Bethel Lutheran Church in Minot.

Rev. and Mrs. John Strand are living at 504 31st Ave. North, Apt. 8, in Fargo, N. Dak. 58102. Pastor Strand serves St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



"AND PETER"

"Casting *all* your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7). Now isn't that something? Do you have problems, needs, difficulties? You are invited to cast them on Him. ALL of them. Are you burdened this morning? Life seems so meaningless, so empty. Peter tells you: *cast it on Him*. Tell Him. He is The Answer. And He cares, really cares.

Peter ought to know. He was, I'm sure, so often discouraged with himself. We are told that once "he wept bitterly" over himself. He had, so to speak, re-dedicated himself to the Lord the day before. He had promised to stick by Him, no matter what. He had meant so well. Yes, he had *really* meant what he said. And then he went out and did the opposite. He failed his Lord in the crucial moment. He denied Him. He swore that he didn't even know Him. I'm sure Peter wept over himself, not only once, but time and time again.

Are you with me, brother and sister. Is your pillow wet so often as you take a good, honest look at yourself? No one knows but you. And your heart is so burdened and heavy. Then these words are for you, too. The answer to it all is Jesus.

Peter had tried so hard, and failed. But one look at Him gave him the answer to his need. It wasn't Peter who must at all cost hang on to Jesus. It was Jesus who would at all cost hold on to Peter. It wasn't the love of Peter for

Jesus that weighed so heavily in the scales. No, it was the love of Jesus for Peter, even as a failure. "He careth for you."

We are told that Peter had something to do with the writing of the Gospel of Mark. It could well be. There are two words that we find in this Gospel that aren't found elsewhere. Probably no one else noticed them, but Peter. Peter could never forget them. It was Easter morning and the grave was empty. But there was good news. The Lord was to meet them in Galilee, as He had said. Mary was told: "Go and tell the disciples—" The message could have stopped there, but it didn't. Can you sense that love reaching out to a failure as those two words are added: "and Peter." To Peter those two words came as a ray of sunshine on a foggy day of despair. He had failed, but even so, *he* was included. Now he tells you, cast *all* your cares on Him, for He CARES. He's been there in the valley, and knows from experience.

—Karl G. Berg



CHARTER MEMBER HONORED AT WISCONSIN CHURCH

Mrs. Olga Hagen, above left, was presented an Honorary Membership (WMF) pin at the July 17 meeting of Section Ten Ladies Aid. Presenting the pin is her daughter Diene, Mrs. Richard Rust, of Menomonie, Wis. Mrs. Hagen, and her husband Arnold have been loyal and faithful workers and officers in the congregation and Sunday School, and she in the Ladies Aid.

Rev. Norman Tenneboe is pastor of the church which is located northeast of Cumberland, Wis.

SEMINARY NEWS

In spite of busy summer schedules, 12 laymen and lay pastors took time out to spend two weeks for refreshing study of the Word and fellowship.

The July 24-August 4 AFLTS Summer Short Course was taught by Pastors Amos Dyrud, J. G. Erickson, K. C. Grundahl and Philip Haugen. Dr. Iver Olson and Mr. Don Rodvold completed the summer faculty.



'78 Summer Short Course, left to right: Jim Hoialmen, Roland Newton, Emerson Anderson, Gayden Stenseng, Lyle Twite, Gust Nordvall, Burton Rygh and Verle Dean.

Fall semester will be highlighted by a series of lectures by Dr. Carl Fredrick Wisløff on "The Theology of Martin Luther: Still a Lodestar." He plans to be at AFLBS October 9-13. The 10:00 a.m., two-hour lectures are open for interested pastors and lay people. Cost of registration is \$15. Dr. and Mrs. Wisløff will be speaking at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church every evening during October 8-13.

ENROLLMENT AT AFLBS

First quarter enrollment at Association Free Lutheran Bible School this fall showed a total of 90 full-time students and one part-time student. There are 29 seniors and 61 juniors.

One year ago, the school term began with 45 seniors and 53 juniors, for a total of 98 students.

ON GIVING

We may not always be able to see with equal clearness that we receive a greater measure than we give, and yet every earnest child of God who gives in His name has many rich experiences of the blessing of such giving.

F. Hammarsten



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

HUNGARIAN BISHOP LAJOS ORDASS DIES

Budapest, Hungary (LC) — Bishop Lajos Ordass of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, twice deposed from his episcopal post due to pressure from the state, died here on August 14 after an apparent heart attack.

At the request of the 77-year-old churchman, there was no sermon or eulogy at his funeral service on August 19; he asked only that an Easter hymn be sung.

The Hungarian bishop was head of the delegation from his church attending the founding assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, held in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, where he was named as a vice-president of the organization.

In 1945, when he was 44 years old, Ordass was elected bishop of the Hungarian Lutheran church and assumed heavy responsibilities for a church devastated by war and living in extreme poverty. By 1948 a state campaign against the church led to an open attack on church schools. Bishop Ordass resisted the confiscation of the church schools and was imprisoned, although the reason given was "willful failure to report an outstanding debt in a foreign country," referring to relief funds received from America.

He served 20 months, but it was not until six years later that he was "rehabilitated" by state and church officials. The church had in the meantime deprived him of his office and elected a successor. On Reformation Day, 1956, he was retired to his office.

At the LWF Assembly held in 1957 in Minneapolis, he was again elected vice-president of the federation and later became an honorary member of its executive committee. Later, after disagreements with the church policy of the Hungarian government, the diocesan council declared his office vacant and elected another bishop. He has lived in retirement here since 1958.

Bishop Ordass was born Feb. 6, 1901, in what is now Yugoslavia. He studied theology in Sopron, western Hungary, and in Germany. Ordained in 1924, he served as an assistant pastor and then continued his studies at Lund and Uppsala University in Sweden.

During World War II, he made the Norwegian church's struggle against Nazism widely known in Hungary by informing pastors' meetings and friends about developments in Norway. His translations and writings have been published in several languages.

Commentary

BISHOP ORDASS: AN EXAMPLE OF UNWAVERING FAITH AND COURAGE

By Paul C. Empie

Lajos Ordass was God's man in the most crucial period of the life of the Lutheran Church in Hungary. In a land devastated by war, he inspired his people to rebuild their lives with unwavering faith and courage. Among his contemporaries, he emerged as a towering spiritual giant.

Although personally humble and self-effacing, he was unmoveable when he believed vital principles were at stake. This fact led to his imprisonment and deposition in 1948. His "crime" was resistance to the plans of the government to take over church-operated schools. He rightly foresaw this as a first step in efforts to subordinate the interests of the church to those of the state.

I am particularly informed in this matter, for portions of my correspondence with him were quoted at his trial. Our committee had earmarked sums of money for reconstruction and spiritual nurture in his church. He would not call all of these funds forward until he was sure they could be properly used to further the Gospel in

compliance with the purposes for which they were given.

The government wanted the inflow of dollars but also demanded a voice regarding their use. When Bishop Ordass stood his ground, false charges were trumped up against him and he was imprisoned. Although later released and "rehabilitated," continued governmental pressures led to his forced retirement. While not bitter, he was deeply hurt.

Less dramatic in style, Ordass was in many respects a leader similar to his friend, Bishop Eivind Berggrav of Norway, a leader in the resistance during the Nazi occupation of that country. He was a leader of the effort to liberate Norway from foreign power and Berggrav became a world figure. The homeland of Ordass was not so completely liberated and he became a casualty in the never-ending battle for the freedom of religious conviction and expression.

His memory will be cherished by all thoughtful Christians for reasons which rise above the controversial situation in his own country. Threats to religious freedom are often more acute in other lands because they are more subtle.

Christian integrity is always subverted when Christians accommodate their lives to social pressures and lifestyles which run contrary to the requirements of cross bearing. Affluence combined with spiritual apathy undermines witness to the Gospel more than can the acts of any hostile government.

The timeless legacy of Lajos Ordass to us all is his unflinching determination to place loyalty to the Gospel above personal considerations, regardless of the cost, and to do so without arrogance or regret but with a compassionate heart and a mind at peace with himself and with his God.

Leaders like him are all too rare but are the gifts of God to His church, who serve to inspire and renew fidelity to Christ and His Gospel. To have known

him as a colleague and a friend was more than a privilege—it brought a compelling example of discipleship which both nags and thrills. The fruits of his life and labors will bless generations to come.

Paul C. Empie is the retired general secretary of the USA National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. For 18 years he was executive director of the former National Lutheran Council and in that capacity was a leader of post-World War II efforts by Lutheran churches in this country to aid suffering Christians in Europe.

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