

October 4, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador



ANOTHER HARVEST GRANTED
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

ANSWERS TO PRAYER Matthew 15:28

There are many verses in the Bible about God's faithfulness to men and women as they come to Him in prayer. I have heard people make great claims of what God has done through their prayers. I have heard people say that if a Christian has enough faith anything is possible for him. This kind of statement could lead to some interesting comments, I am sure, by many of you.

In our text we have the story of a Gentile woman who received the desires of her heart. She received a blank check from God as He said unto her, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

It is interesting that this kind of situation didn't always exist when Jesus dealt with people and the same thing is true today.

I think it important that we consider: When is it safe for the Lord to give such a blank check as He did to this woman? Also, if He gave us such a check, how would we use it?

In answer to the question: **When will God trust us? God will trust us when we have no quarrel with His Son, we agree with Jesus.** Notice that this woman was in agreement with everything Jesus said. If He called her a

dog, she said, "truth, Lord." When you and Christ agree and there is no quarrel between you, then He says, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." If we do not yield to Him, He will not yield to us. "Thy will be done" is a very important petition in our coming to the Lord.

God will trust us **when our soul is taken up with proper desires.** This woman had no desire of asking for a hundred thousand shekels of silver, or a fine garment. She thought of her child and mercy.

How important that we are taken up with the necessary things, like the souls of our children, the spiritual welfare of our church, our community, appealing for the mercy and forgiveness of God. When that happens, then "it shall be unto you even as thou wilt."

God will trust us with His riches **when we see our Lord in His true place.** This woman saw Jesus as a healer, a man of mercy, and she appealed to Him as such.

Christ was not sent of God to make you or me a rich man; He was sent of God to make you and me saved children of God. We must go to Jesus as our Savior, that is His office. He will always give to us the necessary things

and, like David says in the 23rd Psalm, "I shall not want."

When we take Christ as God sets Him before us, then "it shall be given unto you even as you will."

In closing, how shall we use this blank check that God wants to offer us?

In our text, this woman used it on behalf of her daughter.

Personally speaking, if Jesus had said this to me, I would first think of my salvation. I would pray, "Lord, make sure of my salvation; save me from sin, from self, from everything that dishonors Thee."

Because God's blank check is so great, I would also pray for my children, my family, my friends, those who lie near to the heart.

I would also, from God's generosity, pray for the Kingdom's work, that even in this evil day God's Word would be proclaimed in its truth and purity. I would pray for missions, for churches, and Christ would and will say, "Be it unto you even as thou wilt."

We should thank God that nothing is hopeless today and this is true because of the "carte blanche" that He offers to His people as they come in faith.

—David C. Molstre

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 15, Number 20

The Woman's Role in the Church

by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom
Nogales, Arizona

It is not uncommon in our day for a woman to pastor a congregation. And although some church bodies have not given in to the practice, this trend has gained in popularity in recent years. Women preachers have gained a place in our society.

For years it was the accepted belief, by the church in general, that the Bible opposed this practice and that it was not according to the will of God. Few questioned the authenticity of this stand.

But now, with a strong emphasis on women's liberation, there are those who boldly claim that the Bible has nothing to say on this issue and that it takes no stand against women becoming ordained clergy. Our forefathers, they conclude, were reading into Scripture something that wasn't there.

However, the truth is that Scripture is not silent on this matter, and has much to say, both directly and indirectly, that opposes this practice.

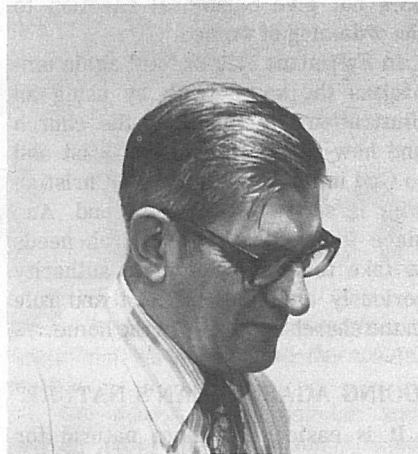
MAN IN AUTHORITY

From the very beginning, God made clear through His Word, the Bible, what role man was to have on this earth and what the role of the woman was to be. And they are to be different in many ways according to what God ordained.

Man (Adam) was made first, and he was given an authoritative position of overseer in the Garden of Eden. He was given this position by God even before Eve came into being (Gen. 2:15).

And later God made Eve for just one purpose. She was to be a helper to Adam in his God-given responsibility (Gen. 2:18-22).

But man was still in authority because God had put him in authority. And this was all established before man fell into sin. Some question how this could be, because the Bible says



Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

that God created man and woman to be as one, implying that each have equal rights (Gen. 2:24). But equal rights and oneness do not change the picture of one being in authority when there is no sin to confuse the issue.

Even within the Trinity in heaven there is authority. God the Father is the supreme authority. He has given Jesus authority to establish His kingdom on earth (Matt. 20:18, I Pet. 3:22). He who gives authority has the greater authority. Nevertheless, we also think of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one and as equal.

Where there is no sin, this does not become a problem. Where there is no sin, authority does not enslave, and those who are subject to authority do not rebel but gladly submit. Where there is no sin there is one hundred percent cooperation between authority and its subjects.

But then shortly after God created man and woman with man in authority, sin came in and spoiled it all. Sin caused division between the one appointed to rule and the one subject to rule. It all began when man (the one in authority) let woman (the one subject to authority) persuade him to act against God's will and to eat

the forbidden fruit. And after that those in authority often enslaved those subject to authority and there has been much rebellion against authority. However, authority became even more needful now in order to maintain at least a degree of order in that which had become out of order because of sin.

But man's position as ruler was not limited to the home only. As the human race multiplied, cities, kingdoms and, later on, congregations came into being. And it was man, and not woman, who was appointed to rule, not only in the home, but also outside of the home, and such authority was considered given by God. Those subject to the kings' rule respected the authority of the kings because they believed it was God who willed or permitted them to rule. Daniel 5:18 is an example of this. And it was men and not women who almost without exception became king.

Paul, a New Testament writer, points out how the home was to be the proving ground to test man's ability to rule and to be in the position of authority. And this was especially to apply to any man who was being considered for leadership in the church (Titus 1:5-6, I Tim. 3:4). Here it is implied that man and not woman is to have the position of authority and leadership within the congregation. Paul was well aware of God's will in this matter.

Paul, who was inspired by God to write, was very emphatic on this. In I Tim. 2:11-12 (KJV), we read: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

And I Corinthians 14:34 (KJV) reads: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."

THE WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE CHURCH

Now there is that about these verses which seems impractical and perhaps even old-fashioned, when taken literally. Are we to interpret them to mean that a woman is to be absolutely quiet when in church, never uttering a word. No, I am sure not!

We can best understand the full and proper meaning, which Paul is here trying to convey, when we understand the historical situation in which Paul wrote.

We believe Paul has reference here to speaking in front of a group such as from a pulpit or rostrum. One of the problems in these early congregations was that often-times many wanted the floor so they could speak. It seems that the hearts of the people were full and they wanted to share or debate some doctrinal issue. Time was often a problem in giving everyone a chance to be heard.

Paul here suggests a remedy to this problem by giving priority to the men and that the woman let the husband be the family representative, letting him speak for her. This would cut in half those contending for the rostrum. As Paul proposes this, our attention is again drawn to God's order in which women are to be subject to men.

But I am not of the belief that women should never speak before a group in church. There are exceptions which I believe both God and Paul would agree to. For example, should a woman have some special report to give or be enlightened on some special subject that pertains to God's Word or the church, and if she should then be appointed or asked to speak (not pushing herself forward), then she should speak. Also, in small groups or whenever she is not pushing her way ahead of the men, she should be given the opportunity to speak and be heard. And certainly there are certain teaching positions, especially when it involves children, that she may fill. However, she is to give the men priority, if and when they ask for the floor. Nor is she to ever seek ordination. This applies to single women as well as married.

If she has an urgent matter on her heart, let her husband do the speak-

ing for her when there are many calling for the floor. Let her first talk it over with her husband and become agreed with him. In case of a single woman, let her seek out a Christian brother, father, male relative or close male friend to speak for her. So Paul suggests. Perhaps we do not have this problem as they did in Paul's day; nevertheless, this kind of thinking does not give Scriptural sanction to the ordaining of women.

In Ephesians 5:22-24 Paul again emphasizes the same truth by using an illustration. He mentions the church and how she is subject to Christ and to God in the same way as a Christian wife is subject to her husband. And since this is true, the church needs to take this ruling of male authority seriously and let man lead and rule in the church as well as in the home.

GOING AGAINST MAN'S NATURE

It is easier and more natural for a man to listen and be persuaded by another man in the pulpit than by a woman. It goes against man's nature because God made him to be masculine and to rule, to let himself be led by a woman who is feminine and who is ordained by God to serve and not rule. It seems out of order to man and it becomes extremely difficult for man to recognize or submit to such leading.

But a woman does not have the same problem. She will listen to a man. It is her nature to submit to the authority of man. God made her that way.

So what is apt to happen when a woman speaks with the authority of a pastor. The women may come to church, but the men begin to find excuses to stay away. They feel strangely uncomfortable sitting under the preaching of a woman. And soon you have an all-women's congregation.

We already have this situation in many places even where men are preaching. Far more women than men come to church, attend Bible study and meet for Christian fellowship. And this trend will not lessen but will become more acute when a woman takes the pulpit as pastor of the congregation.

Some may say, "Let the women be pastors where only women come to

church." But if we allow this, the men of these congregations will never be reached for Christ.

WOMEN HAVE WISDOM

One of the arguments given to let women rule and take over, where once only men ruled, including the pastoring of a church, is that they have proven themselves capable and have a wisdom that matches the responsibility. Oftentimes they have proven themselves to be more suitable for such a position than the average man.

In our public schools, girls, on the average, have higher grades than boys and on the whole adapt themselves to study better than the boys.

And since there are more women who go to church, read their Bibles, pray and follow Jesus and His teaching than men, they do, on the average, have a God-given wisdom which many men do not have. Oftentimes they show greater spiritual maturity than the men.

Some may ask, "Did God make a mistake? Was He all-wise in willing that only men should rule when women are ever proving that they have a spiritual maturity and wisdom which men often lack?"

We can be sure that God is well aware of this. But still He has given no exception to His order of letting the men rule.

The woman's role is still to help, give encouragement to men, and not to rule. And it is because of her wisdom that she will be a good helper to man. God gave her the abilities and wisdom so she could be a helper. He has provided man with the very best there is.

(To be continued)



CANDID SHOTS FROM THE LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

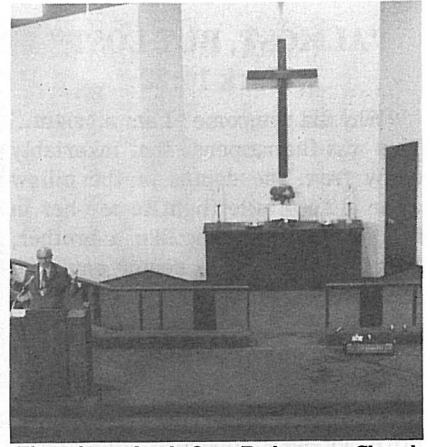
—Photos by Wayne Hjermsstad



The Ambassadors from AFLBS sang at the banquet.



A discussion group led by Pastor Terry Olson.



The chancel of Our Redeemer Church. Rev. R. W. Gunderson is in the pulpit.



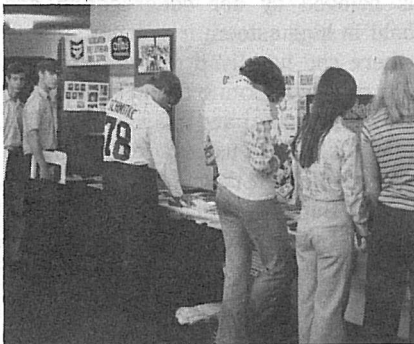
The canteen gets a customer, Mick Antal.



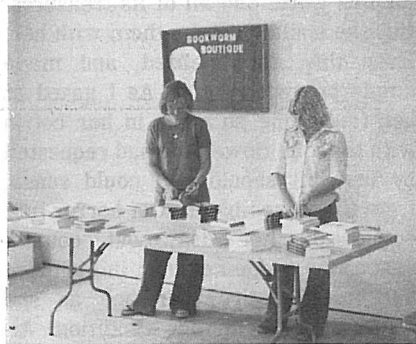
The convention choir under the direction of Mrs. Robert Rieth.



Preparing for one of the meals.



Leaguers looking at a display.



Two bookworms?



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. The older church is at the right.



The Gospel team of the Hauge Lutheran Federation.



Outgoing LLF president Richard Anderson speaks to the banquet-goers.

"ALMOST, BUT LOST"

Mark 10:22

"Why did you come? I am all right." This was the response that invariably came from the depths of the pillow after a 2,000 mile flight to see her in her illness. She, too, like a brother, had cancer, and the doctor gave me the task of telling her. He gave her from four to six weeks to live. She received the news silently. The frail, pitiful figure curled against the white sheets still held the indomitable will of a victor's conquest. How one's heart went out to her! She would rise again, and she did. This was in May, 1976. Unknown to all, she would live 14 more months. The background was a hospital to which she had been rushed.

For many years, unknown to her, she had had breast cancer, and had simply taken pain pills to sustain a resolute will in its conquest for survival. And TIME, in days and months was conquered. But what about ETERNITY? Eternity is long. Where will you spend it? She knew the way of salvation. Her contacts had been such, and were limitless. The WORD and Prayer had come into the home with victories. But somehow, in her economic conquests, she bypassed them. Could this be you also?

She lived to see her home again and to treasure its memories and hard-earned resources. She went about her daily routine. While loved ones prayed and visited, she willed her tortured body in silent conquest from day to day. Her courage and determination were simply immense. Her 42 years of service as a private secretary, typist and stenographer giving her executive control in every circumstance was still her task, embroiled with even this personal antagonist, cancer. She would yield her mastership to none. She would be victorious, unyielding to the end.

But again, a telephone call to the West Coast. She was bedridden at home and would not yield to an ambulance ride to the hospital. Another hurried trip, and I was by her bedside. After prayer, she yielded and was taken to the hospital. Oxygen restored her. As I once again stood by her bed as she came to, she remonstrated,

"Why did you come? I can take care of myself. Why go to all that expense?" To WORD and prayer, she again listened with outward acquiescence. But her heart was in her will to survive. Spiritual survival was beside the point. Life to her was a part of this world.

The doctor said that she needed 24-hour care, so after some days it was arranged for such care at the Aurora Manor Resthome. Her pitiful cancerous condition, immune to the best of medicine-care, still was subservient to an amazing will to live. She wanted her home environment, but she was taken to Aurora Manor. Under good care, after some six months, once again her wish to be home was granted. The cancer had now invaded her lungs and liver. Still, with assistance, she shopped, and though at times almost breathless, she was up and around the house.

Then the day came when she asked to be taken back to Aurora Manor. She had met and made many friends there. Over the long distance phone, I requested permission to come and see her. Her answer, when the request was transmitted to her was a determined "NO!"

She died as she lived, her last breath for this world and all of its treasures. But she could not take them with her. Even this, she realized, and made ample provision for it. As I gazed at her face lying so quiet in her coffin with the lone flower she had requested by her left shoulder, I could sense, from the incredible look of horror that compassed her drawn-out countenance, the sudden change in attitude: her last breath experience as she realized, too late, her condition. Almost, but lost. Dear Reader, could this also be you?

Rev. A. L. Hokonson
Silverton, Oregon.

ONE HUDNRED-YEAR OLD HONORED WITH WMF PIN

In recognition of her ever-faithful willingness as organist for over 25 years in the Zion Congregation and continued membership in the new United Lutheran Church of Green-

bush, Minn., Mrs. Nettie Lund was presented with an honorary Membership in the Women's Missionary Federation and received a pin. Four members of the United WMF, namely, Mrs. Evelyn Waage, Mrs. Clarice Burkel, Mrs. Louise Waage and Mrs. Laura Austin were on hand for the August 15 presentation at the Nursing Home where Mrs. Lund now resides. Mrs. Austin read Bible verses Psalm 32:8 and Matthew 25:21 and Nettie Lund repeated them in Norwegian. Nettie Lund was 100 years old last November 27 and is now nearing her next birthday.



Mrs. Nettie Lund and the women who presented her with her pin.

Nettie, as she is most often called, is beloved by her congregation and held in high esteem in her community where she has lived most of her life. She enjoyed serving the Lord with her talents, music and handiwork. Her piano is still in use at United Lutheran, to which she donated it.

Mr. Burton Rygh is lay pastor of United Lutheran Church.

—From a newspaper account.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., is conducting Sunday services at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., during the next weeks in the pastoral vacancy there.

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer will be serving as interim pastor at Pukwana, S. Dak. (Pukwana and St. Olaf) during the next months. His wife and daughter Sandy will continue to live in Thief River Falls where Sandy is in school.

NEWS of the Churches

WESTAKER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Westaker Lutheran Church, Newfolden, Minn., celebrated its 90th anniversary August 6-7 with a full weekend of festivities.

The celebration began Saturday night with a youth service. A former pastor from 1970-73, Rodney Stueland, Buxton, N. Dak., was the featured speaker at the service.

A Norwegian service preceded the morning worship service. Edwin Mathison of Bagley, Minn., an interim lay pastor in 1969-70, gave a testimony and Harvey Dyrud of the congregation brought the message, all in Norwegian. Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Thief River Falls, Minn., interim pastor from 1973-75, spoke at the second service.

A noon meal was served by the Ladies Aid to the members and friends present.

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, spoke at the afternoon dedication service. Letters from former pastors who were unable to attend were also read at that time.

The theme verse followed during the weekend was I Thessalonians 1:3: "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

Westaker Lutheran Church is one congregation of a three-point parish: Bethania, Newfolden; Hegland, Strandquist; and Westaker, in Newfolden. The parish is served by Rev. Merle T. Knutson. For two months during the summer David Abel of the



Mrs. Ida Julin was honored as the oldest member of Westaker congregation.

—Photos by the Record

AFLC seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., was on internship in the parish.

Those who have served Westaker as regular pastors or for significant periods during vacancy are Elias Aas and Christian Saugstad, in the formative years of 1887-89; H. Østgulen, 1889-1906; M. Bjornson, 1907-12; Albert Gilseth, 1912-19; John Hjelmeland, 1919-27; G. P. Ronholm, 1927-45; Ernest Raaum, 1945-1952; Gordon Berntson, 1953-58; Elder Oscarson, 1958-62; Gene Sundby, 1963-69; Edwin Mathison, 1969-70; Rodney Stueland, 1970-73; Hubert DeBoer, 1973-75; and Merle T. Knutson, 1975-.

—Based on the report in the Middle River Record.

SENIOR JUNIOR CAMPS HELD JUNE 23-30TH AT BETHANY BIBLE CAMP AT GRACE LAKE IN BEMIDJI, MINN.

There was a most gracious working of the Holy Spirit at the Bethany Bible Camp with Pastor Phil Haugen as Bible teacher and Pastor Verle Dean as camp evangelist.

There were many who came for counselling, not under emotional duress, but rather through a conviction of sin. The discovery was made that the reason so many Bible Campers fail to carry through in the Christian way of life is because they are not reading the Word of God. It is painfully evident that there is very little Word memorization and a deficiency of meditating upon the Word. A strong emphasis was placed upon the words of Jesus from John 8, "If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed." We must place a far greater



Pictured left to right are Hubert F. DeBoer, John P. Strand, Merle T. Knutson, Edwin Mathison, David Abel and Rodney Stueland.

stress upon learning the Word, memorizing and reading, or our efforts will not bear fruit.

Pastor Ray Persson of Bemidji served as dean. Pastors of the district conducted the Practical and Mission hours. They were Pastors Mauritz Lundeen of the Bagley Parish, Ralph Rokke of the McIntosh Parish and Walter Beaman of the Shevlin Parish. Camp cooks were Mrs. Ed Mathison and Mrs. Alice Nelson of Bagley. Mrs. Lundeen was choir director and Mrs. Ken Olson of Bagley, camp nurse. Mrs. Persson conducted the prayer hours. Counsellors were Pastor Ralph Rokke and Joel Rolf of McIntosh, Mrs. Berdine Holt of Foston, Sue Oien and Jacky Dahl of Bagley, Jeannie Luggar of Shevlin and Rebecca Carlson of Bemidji.

115 Attended the Senior and Junior camps. Thanks also to our faithful caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Reynolds, members of Bethany Lutheran Church, Bemidji. The staff met on July 7th for a dinner fellowship at a cafe and spent the evening at the Bethany parsonage in Bemidji. They re-echoed the theme verse of the camp, "From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised" (Ps. 113:3).

—Corr.



Minneapolis, Minn.
Medicine Lake Lutheran Church
J. G. Erickson, pastor
Oct. 9-16
Rev. Steve Lombardo, LEM evangelist, speaker.

The Best of Hallelusby

THE HARSH WORDS OF JESUS

"And he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs" (Matthew 15:26).

We considered briefly yesterday the harsh silence of Jesus.

Let us today consider for a little while His harsh words.

Jesus was determined to answer the woman's prayer. But first He had to let her know who she was. That necessitated a hard saying. But she did not take offense. She yielded to the Lord and humbly sank down at His feet.

Perhaps you have experienced something similar. After you have been confronted with unfathomable silence on the part of Jesus, you have also had some hard sayings directed at you.

The woman listened and yielded. Will you do that?

If you will, your Savior will speak these earnest words to you: When you are in temporal distress, you weep and plead for help. But the distress of your soul does not move you. You never think of God unless you need Him. It is selfishness that impels you, even when you kneel in prayer. Moreover, you are self-willed even in the presence of the Almighty. You prescribe to Him what He should do. And if He does not do what you want, you murmur against Him.

But is it not harsh to speak thus to you when you are in distress? Yes, but love is hard when the loved one is in danger of death and does not see it himself.

The woman yielded, was convicted by the truth of Jesus' words and His manner of dealing with her, and committed herself to His mercy. She was saved, not only from her temporal distress, but also from her imperious and demanding spirit, saved into a sinner's humble surrender to the grace of God.

Jesus would save you, too, from the greatest cause of your distress, your lack of confidence in God, so that you calmly and trustingly might leave the distress of both your soul and your body in His pierced hands.

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editorials

WORLD MISSIONS

The Ambassador schedule for 1977 lists this issue as one in which there would be an emphasis on world missions. Through our own neglect, that is not the case. However, we hereby resolve that in the future certain issues throughout a calendar year will feature various areas of our common work as a fellowship of congregations. Perhaps this word now can help alert our agencies to begin preparing for such an annual emphasis. This in no way means that current news and developments aren't welcome in other issues, too. They are.

We were reminded of world missions recently in a slide presentation of missions work in a number of African lands. Christianity has been embraced at a phenomenal rate in Africa in recent years. At the same time Communism, both of the Russian and Chinese brands, is making a mighty bid for the soul of Africa. Some nations in Africa are very restrictive toward Christian work now, as in Uganda and Ethiopia. In other countries the doors are open wide to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Association is not engaged in work in Africa although many of us may personally know missionaries on that continent and/or be supporting work there. We can include Madagascar with Africa.

Nor are we involved in mission work in many areas of the world, but again, on an individual basis or congregationally, may be giving financial or prayer support to Christian work on the several continents and islands of the seas. God bless all true evangelical Christian endeavor.

But in our church fellowship, to this time, God has given us opportunity to labor on the great South American continent, specifically in the nation of Brazil. What a field of opportunity that has been! There have been many converts. There is a sizeable number of congregations. A Bible school and seminary have been in operation for a good many years. And now one of our missionary families has moved to one of the new frontiers of the nation to follow some of our people who have moved out there and to evangelize in that area (Rondonia).

Still to be implemented, too, is a work in the region where Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay come together, the Tri-Nation area, which has been a long-range objective of our Mission Board. So there is a need for more workers and more workers are coming.

Intercede for this mission responsibility God has given to us. Support it with your gifts.

We are to bring the Gospel of Jesus to other nations. Personally, we prefer the word "world" rather than "foreign" in speaking of missions. Anyone who has travelled in other countries realizes that people are not so different or "foreign" from us. Customs vary, skin color may be different, but all people have the same aspirations and needs. They are members of the world community, too. They are from other nations but somehow the word "foreign" has lost much of its meaning today in reference to other lands and peoples. But, be that as it may, let the spiritual needs of the world's nations lie heavily on our hearts that the "morning light" of salvation break forth in glorious radiance in these latter days.

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.

MINNESOTA
Thief River Falls
Ole Selmanson, 68, Aug. 10, Our
Saviour's

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

"Ask . . . where is the good way and walk therein" Jer. 6:16.

Just "Turn to the right and keep straight on,"

And you cannot miss the way.
"Is it rough?" you ask; oh, yes, sometimes;

But it's rougher if you stray.
For to all who travel the one sure road

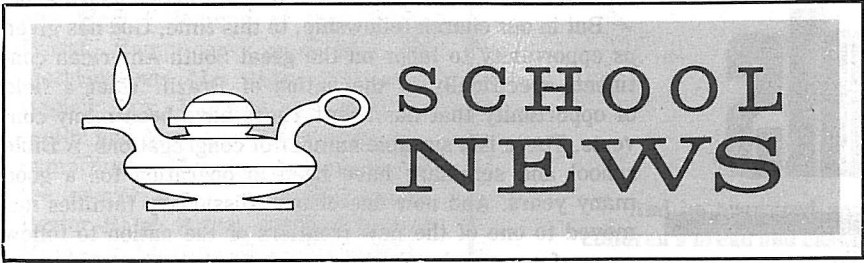
There's a perfect Guide-book given;
But there's no map shown of the lands around;
It's the only way to heaven.

The Lord of the land to which we go
Has servants many and true,
And the only road to their heavenly home

Is the one you are walking, too;
And never yet was the way so hard,
Or the night so dark and long,
But someone offered a helping hand
And someone started a song.
So "turn to the right, and keep straight on,"

For a Guide-book has been given;
There's no map shown of the lands around,
But it tells the way to heaven.

—Annie Johnson Flint



**AFLBS
Praise in Progress**

The debt reduction program approved at the annual conference in June is now in progress. Sixteen concerned men met together at AFLBS on September 9 to receive instructions for implementing the program in their respective areas.

The twofold goal of the program includes raising \$100,000.00 in cash by November 30 of this year and securing \$100,000.00 in pledges to be paid over the next three years. These funds will serve to help reduce the \$480,000.00 debt now existing on the present dormitories at AFLBS.

The sixteen area representatives will seek to present the program in each of the AFLC congregations this fall. In turn, each congregation has been asked for a representative to best prepare for this visit from AFLBS.

"AFLBS Today: Praise in Progress" will be shown by the area representatives in each church they visit. This slide-sound presentation shows the beautiful campus as well as presenting the need of reducing the debt now.

The name of the program, Praise in Progress, comes from the concern that the Praise Fund, which is designated for debt retirement, be allowed to progress by the increased efforts of concerned friends of AFLBS. Then, as we progress, God gives us reason to praise Him, who supplies all our needs.

Come to the presentation of "AFLBS Today: Praise in Progress" when it is in your church or area. Come prepared to prayerfully deal with this very real need that AFLBS may progress toward its goals.

—Pastor Moland

**EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER
FROM THE GENE SUNDBYS
(To the Mission Corporation
last spring.)**

Outlook, Sask.—

... the Lord provides in abundance. We as a family have truly experienced this time and again these past few years. Phil. 4:19 has meant and means a lot to us. We truly have a wonderful God.

Gene is the same, maybe some stronger, but no big change. Some days he is pretty good and other days he feels all washed out and hurts and aches all over.

We want to thank you so much for your prayers on our behalf. We know that many are praying and this means so much. We would love to be back in the ministry and maybe some day the Lord will see fit to heal Gene's

body so we can be back. But for now, we must remain faithful where he has placed us, even though many times it is easy to become discouraged and give up. It is so hard to be patient and always accept the things that come our way, but the Lord provides the strength and grace for these times too.

Our family is growing up fast—Heather is in Grade 10, Carren in Grade 8, Michele in Grade 7 and Geoffrey in Grade 2. Both Heather and Michele are about my size in height, but Carren is much taller and bigger. So they may all be bigger than me before long. Geoffrey is a big boy, too, tall and thin, and eats like a horse.

I must scam to bed; it is soon 11:30 p.m., and morning always comes too fast. I work from 9:00 to 3:00 and then come home and work some more. Some days get kind of hectic trying to keep up two jobs.

Gene and Sylvia Sundby (Ed. note: I had the opportunity to visit the Sundbys for an hour last July when I was in Canada. They greet all the friends of the Association. He served as a lay pastor at Newfolden and Greenbush, Minn., and at Culbertson, Mont., until a rare illness made it impossible for him to continue. He sent a recorded greeting to Westaker Church, Newfolden, on its anniversary and also took part via recording on the Sunday Morning Devotional Hour, Thief River Falls, Minn., recently.)



HOPE—FAITH—LOVE

Lord, give us grace to be patient,
And help us to be strong;
Give fresh hope for tomorrow,
In our heart today a song.

Let Your Word guide in the right way,
Though it may seem dark and long;
Give faith in our loving Savior,
To Whom thanks and praise belong.

May God's love shine through to others
As a witness clear and true,
With His presence ever near us,
May He lead the whole way through.

Mrs. Laura Norum
Amery, Wis.

W.M.F.

BIBLE STUDY



Discussion: Have you received any blessings as you have been studying Philip-
pians this year? Share blessings and Scriptures which have meant a lot to
you in our study together.

Memorize: Philippians 4:19

Closing Hymn: "What Our Father Does Is Well," No. 301 in *The Concordia
Hymnal*

WMF REMINDER

Dear Ladies, the gifts which you will send in for the month of November
will be used for Cradle Roll and Junior Missions. This is a fund with many
areas of need: We support missionary Priscilla Wold in Brazil and our Execu-
tive Secretary and Parish Education Secretary, Miss Judith Wold. Through
this fund we pay for all our Cradle Roll materials, WMF Newsletters and
Bible Study answer sheets which you receive in the mail and we subsidize
the Brazil Bookstore, which is located in a strategic, very busy location near
the University in Campo Mourao. Will you generously support these endeavors?

We urge you to attend your District WMF Rally whenever it is held this
fall. Your life will be enriched greatly!

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein

Scripture: Philippians 4:14-23

GOD'S BOUNTIFUL SUPPLY

November, 1977

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will
take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay
my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people" (Psalm 116:
12-14). At this Thanksgiving season we are mindful of God's blessings to us
in abundance. All that we have is a gift from God and we are stewards of
His gifts to us. Our hearts should re-echo the words of the Psalmist in Psalm
68:19: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the
God of our salvation" (KJV).

In Matthew 10:8b, we read: "Freely ye have received, freely give" (KJV).
The Philippian Church was used of God to supply Paul's needs. He is very
grateful to them for their liberality and it gives him joy to see that there
is spiritual fruit from their lives. A spiritual Christian is concerned for others.

1. God desires fruit for His glory:

Matthew 13:8 _____

Ephesians 5:9 _____

James 3:17 _____

John 12:24 _____

John 15:5 _____

John 15:2 _____

2. In verse 18b of Philippians 4, "an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God" (KJV) refers to the Old Testament sacrifices. Read Genesis 8:21 and Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17.

3. What does God's Word say about selfishness and unwillingness to help the poor? Proverbs 11:24 _____

Proverbs 21:13 _____

Proverbs 28:27 _____

Ecclesiastes 5:13 _____

4. God has promised to supply all our needs. Often we want things which we really do not need. God knows what is best for us. Examples from Scripture in which God provided:

Deuteronomy 2:7 _____

I Kings 17:6, 16 _____

I Kings 19:6 _____

II Kings 4:6 _____

Matthew 14:20-21 _____

5. What is the testimony of the Psalmist in Psalm 37:25? _____

Discussion: Share together your personal experiences of God's wonderful provision and answered prayer.

6. God supplies "according to His riches-glorify by Christ Jesus" (KJV). Riches of His grace: Romans 2:4 _____

Ephesians 2:7 _____

I Timothy 1:14 _____

7. God has spiritual abundance awaiting all who come to Him in repentance and faith.

John 10:10: Abundant _____

II Corinthians 9:8: Abundant _____

Ephesians 3:20: Abundant _____

Philippians 4:19: Abundant _____

Let us personally ask ourselves: Am I experiencing by faith all that God wants to give me of His riches in Christ Jesus?

8. What must be the motive in all our service for Jesus? (I Peter 4:11) _____

9. In Philippians 4:20, we read: "Now unto God and our Father." God is the Father of all who are in Christ Jesus, both Jew and Gentile. What do the following references tell us about our Heavenly Father?

Psalms 68:5 _____

Isaiah 64:8 _____

Matthew 6:9 _____

Matthew 7:11 _____

Romans 8:15 _____

In closing this epistle, Paul includes greetings from the brethren who are with him. He closes with the benediction. God's grace is what we need more than anything else.

10. Make a list of the references to joy, rejoice, and rejoicing as found in the last two chapters of this epistle.

Life on the Edge of Town



FALL CAME EARLY

Fall came early this year to northern Minnesota. Long before any killing frost the leaves began to change colors. What that means in reference to the kind of winter we'll have, we shall have to wait and see.

Fall has its compensations, to be sure. Yesterday, on a rainy Sunday, the woods nearby had a freshness unlike any other season of the year, even though the leaves were half-gone.

When leaves are gone the woods are revealed in all their unattractive aspects, too. Every broken and fallen tree is shown. And yet it is now much easier to make one's way through and to know where the best path is.

As anyone who doesn't live in an apartment knows, there is much to do in house and yard to get ready for the onset of winter.

September hasn't given us many warm days yet. Perhaps October will make up for it. And what is more glorious than a warm October day?

THE SUBJECT OF MUSIC

On my trip west last summer I had the dubious opportunity to check the status of the music being played by radio stations in the U.S. and Canada. And I found the condition to be sick and deplorable.

Honestly, I wonder what kind of people those disc jockeys are to spend their lives spinning those kinds of records. And what kind of people find meaning in listening? And what mean-

ing do they find in the pessimistic or suggestive words and the discordant noise?

I can accept some popular and country music, don't misunderstand me, but it seemed to me that music is at an all-time low now.

There were some redeeming things out of radio, though. I did find a couple stations in Montana which seemed to be commercial, but played mostly, if not all, Christian music. Some of the songs were not what I approve of, but these stations did have much to offer. Then in approaching Seattle I became aware of a number of Christian stations, but it was interesting to hear a number of what I call "southern-style evangelists," something we don't meet as often in the Upper Midwest. I refer to the highly emotional type of preaching.

In Canada the commercial stations are no better music-wise than in the U.S. Some seem even worse. I believe it was in Canada that I heard a jazzed-up version of "What A Friend We Have in Jesus." I had thought no one would dare tamper with that song.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation does offer some very interesting listening through its stations, however. There are informative conversations about current topics and adventure and the music played is either classical or generally of a higher type.

But the state of radio in general could almost drive a person to invest in a tape deck.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

In Camrose, Alberta, I had the privilege to visit two Lutheran institutions, Camrose Lutheran College and Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Neither was in session, of course, but now I have an idea of the physical plants of these schools of which I have known for so long.

CLBI had humble beginnings, as did our own Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The original building stands across the street from the main campus. It is a one-story wooden structure. Lutherans from a number of synods started the Bible school in the early 1930s. Our Bible School Choir has visited CLBI and also the Bible School at Outlook, Sask., which I have seen from the outside.

I am sure we rejoice in these sister Lutheran schools where an education in the Bible is being given.

—Raynard Huglen



LEST I AGAIN DELAY YOUR PLAN

Forgive me for not obeying You
When You had a task for me to do.
I ran away in greatest fear
Lest I should cause a friend a tear.
How could I do this thing for You
And stop my life's calm to pursue?
Yet I cannot find a day of rest
For my decision was not best;
I heeded not Your wise command,
Even hindered, slowed, the work
You'd planned.
Oh, please again restore my peace,
Cause all my restlessness to cease.
So use me any way You can
Lest I again delay Your plan.
For Your fellowship means more to
to me
Than the understanding of my
fellow man.

Mabel Quanbeck
McVile, N. Dak.

A MINISTER'S MUSINGS



TREASURES IN HEAVEN

"It has already deteriorated." A friend of ours spoke in this way about her home farm. Though her parents had moved from that farm only about two years ago, yet the condition of that once well-kept farm had already declined. As a boy of ten years I accompanied my parents to the farm in Northern Wisconsin on which my mother had grown up. How eagerly Mother awaited seeing her childhood home of which she had so many fond memories. However, when Mother saw it, she broke down and wept. At that time I failed to enter into my mother's feelings. Her heart was saddened greatly when she beheld the buildings so sadly neglected and the lawn grown up to weeds.

Such incidents remind us of the fact that things on earth soon grow old and lose their beauty. It is only natural that we will experience disappointment over seeing the deterioration of the home of our childhood. Nevertheless, it would be wrong for us to yield to despair over such an experience. These experiences should rather lead us to become less attached to earthly treasures. For if these treasures do not leave us, then we must someday leave all of them.

Concerning treasures, Jesus gave wonderful advice for us when He said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth—but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven." Jesus warns us that treasures on earth are always in danger. He informs us that treasures in Heaven are in safekeeping. Henry Beecher advised, "Have

a deposit on earth, if you must or can; but let your chief banking be in Heaven." Are your treasures where they will never grow old or deteriorate?

—Einar Unseth

OUR TRIP TO THE LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

Dear Friends,

The trip out to the West Coast (with the Luther Leaguers) was a good one. Traveling out there and back by train, the studies, services and fellowship were great.

The reason for these conventions is to take care of Luther League business, which includes encouraging the youth to a committed, deeper life in Christ.

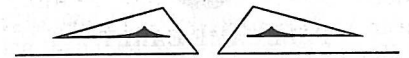
One thing that came to my attention again this week at Kirkland, was the need for love for each other. How necessary it is on the part of those who know Christ to show concern and encouragement to others who are weak in the faith, or perhaps don't know Christ.

During counseling sessions, it was expressed by some of the youth that their Christian friends seemed to care so little for them, and also that there was so little change in the speech and conduct of friends who had come to know Christ.

Christ has told us to love one another. He also said, if there is no love in us, Christ does not dwell in us. The poor testimony and lack of concern were hindering some individuals from committing their lives to Christ.

May it never be said of us (by God's grace) that we fail to show love and concern for others.

Pastor Ron Knutson
(from the Drummond-Mason,
Wis., Newsletter)



ANNIVERSARY ITEMS FOR SALE

Sixtieth anniversary church plates, history books and note cards are available from St. Olaf Lutheran Church, rural Tioga, N. Dak. Please write to Nancy Sundhagen, Tioga, 58852.



FREE LUTHERAN YOUTH TO BRAZIL

Shown above is part of the delegation which made the trip to Brazil last summer to visit the AFLC mission field. They are, left to right, Steve Lee, Renee Oscarson, Karen Ellertson, Tricia Broden, Viola Reed, Miriam Johnson and Joyce Lindgren. Not pictured: Chris Gunderson.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

WISCONSIN SYNOD SEES TALKS WITH MISSOURI STILL DISTANT

New Ulm, Minn.—(LC)—Meaningful doctrinal discussions between the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod will not be possible unless the LCMS ends fellowship with the American Lutheran Church and withdraws from the Lutheran Council in the USA.

This was declared in a report to the WELS 44th biennial convention here from its Commission on Inter-Church Relations. The report did not require any formal action.

Once allied in the former Synodical Conference, the doctrinally conservative Missouri and Wisconsin Synods have had no formal relations since 1961 when the 400,000 member Wisconsin Synod suspended fellowship. At issue was Missouri's relations with less conservative Lutheran denominations.

Since then, the Missouri Synod joined the American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in America in forming the Lutheran Council and approved fellowship with the ALC, allowing joint worship, inter-communion, the exchange of pastors and pulpits and the transfer of members.

Missouri Synod-ALC fellowship currently is in question, however, since the LCMS at its July convention in Dallas raised questions about the doctrinal positions of the ALC—particularly concerning the ordination of women and ecumenical involvements—and declared a state of “fellowship in protest.”

Wisconsin Synod observers at the Dallas convention have given cautious approval to the “renewed doctrinal concern” reflected in Missouri Synod actions but also raised questions about Missouri's conservative consistency.

Actions at the Wisconsin Synod convention included the re-election of the Rev. Oscar J. Naumann, 68, of Milwaukee to his 13th successive two-year term as president. Twenty-four congregations also were added to the church membership, bringing its total to more than 100 congregations in 45 states and three Canadian provinces.

ALC 1978 CONVENTION SET FOR FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA

Minneapolis—(LC)—The American Lutheran Church will hold its 1978 general convention October 18-24 in the Fargo, N.D.-Moorhead, Minn., area, it was decided here by the ALC Church Council.

The decision followed an earlier action which postponed plans for an Assembly of Congregations which would have brought more than 20,000 persons to Minneapolis-St. Paul in August next year.

ALC President David W. Preus had recommended the postponement. He noted that votes in district conventions had showed a 65 per cent majority favoring the assembly but that he felt at least a 75 per cent majority was needed.

In its action here, the council called for appointment of a five-member task force to bring its recommendations concerning future assembly plans to the 1978 Church Council and 1978 national convention.

The convention sessions will be held at Concordia College in Moorhead and delegates and other participants will be housed in hotels and motels in the area.

Among other actions at the council sessions, support for oppressed black majorities of South Africa and Namibia was expressed, together with reaffirmation of a stand against apart-

heid and separate development policies of South Africa and in support of independence for Namibia with United Nations-supervised elections.

A Coalition of Black Members of the ALC—a group of about 200—also was made a part of the church structure and congregations of the church were urged to support the efforts of Indians to achieve justice.

LC/USA NEWS BUREAU NAMES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

New York—(LC)—Tom Dorris, a staff writer with Religious News Service here for the last two years, has been appointed assistant director of the News Bureau of the Lutheran Council in the USA.

Before joining RNS, Mr. Dorris, 30, was a freelance writer in Washington, D.C., dealing mainly with religious subjects for various church and secular publications.

For four years he was on the faculty of the Blair Summer School for Journalism, Blairstown, N.J., and his earlier experience includes work as a reporter and columnist for the Daily Press and Observer-Dispatch, dailies in Utica, N.Y., where he was born and raised.

Mr. Dorris has graduate degrees in political science and journalism from Columbia University here, where he also did his undergraduate work. He is a member of the Religion News-writers Association and the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi.

Assuming the post September 19, he will join Neil Mellblom in the news and feature activity. Mr. Mellblom succeeded Erik W. Modean, now retired, as director of the News Bureau last April.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

The address of Pastor and Mrs. Bruce Dalager is Route 1, Mentor, Minn. 56737, not Winger, as erroneously reported in the Sept. 6 issue. However, Pastor Dalager does serve the Winger parish.

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