

May 2, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

**City Hall and Open Market
in Gouda, The Netherlands**

Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

Pentecost

Let us go verse by verse in our Meditation Moments for this time. This is a good way because then we can glean as much as possible out of a specific passage. Our Meditation verses are Acts 2:1-11. Why not read the entire portion before reading any further?

First, let us point out that the Day of Pentecost was a **specific** day, it was in a **specific** place and it involved **specific** people, the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each of the men received the Holy Spirit on this special day and in the special and specific way illustrated in the text. Others, later, and primarily through Baptism, received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. However, here we see specifics are involved—specific people, time and place.

In verse two we see a simple description of what has happened. Let us not make more of this description, doing injustice to the text.

No one else may have known about the event of Pentecost here since the sound filled only the house where they were sitting.

The event of Pentecost was a personal happening as the tongues of fire sat upon each of the disciples. Again, to read more into this text than what is observed is to do the text injustice. They each spoke in languages as the Spirit of God gave them the ability to speak.

Yes, the Holy Spirit gave them the

ability to speak in other languages. These were not tongues as were spoken about by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians. These languages could be heard and understood by all to whom the men spoke.

The reaction of the people was one of amazement. All the men were Galileans and now they could speak in various languages. Something had happened to these men. The whole world was to know about it because they began to preach and teach with power and boldness like they had never had before!

It was a natural thing to question what had happened. "And how hear we every man in our own tongue?" What did the men speak? "We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

The whole world was involved. Everyone was to hear what God wanted these men to say. Peter broke into a tremendous sermon after he was filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. You can read it for yourself in the remainder of Acts 2. Peter spoke of our Lord Jesus Christ. His sermon was all about Jesus. The result was, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Is this not the basic reason for Pentecost? This is the basic reason! God's Spirit was given to these men for this express purpose of declaring the redemption possible to everyone who will listen!

"But this is that which was spoken

by the prophet Joel." Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. It will never be repeated. It was intended for specific people, in a specific location and for a specific time.

Today, we receive the Holy Spirit **primarily** through Holy Baptism! All believers have the Holy Spirit or they are not Christians. "Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

God's Spirit does not enter into sinful hearts. However, baptism is the gracious act of God whereby we are washed clean of sin and God's Spirit enters our hearts.

A good cross reference for our thoughts would be Ephesians 1:11-14. These verses tell us that the Lord has not confined the giving of the Holy Spirit to baptism. Faith is the necessary ingredient. Salvation is always in connection with faith in Jesus! So God does not demand baptism as if it were part of the law. We simply trust Him. Yet, to neglect the Sacrament is to neglect the command of the Lord in the Word. The Word says also, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

We have a wonderful Savior! He has provided for us through His Word and Sacraments. Glory be to God, great things He has done and continues to do through His Church.

—Dennis Gray

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FLY TO BRAZIL

*What Is FLY to Brazil?

First, what it is not—it is not a South American airline travel promotional agency! FLY is an acronym representing Free Lutheran Youth, and FLY to Brazil was begun as a part of the total AFLC vision and work as we continually strive to obey Jesus' orders: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." Specifically, FLY to Brazil is designed to provide an opportunity for Christian young people, under the leadership of the Luther League Federation, to live and work with AFLC missionaries in Brazil during part of a summer.

*What Is the Purpose of Fly to Brazil?

There are several: primarily to give our youth a first-hand knowledge of the AFLC mission work in Brazil, with a goal of instilling and inspiring a burden for world missions in their lives; to help the missionaries in a variety of ways according to individual gifts and talents; also to be involved in ministries with Brazilian brothers and sisters in the national churches and to share a living testimony of faith in Jesus Christ in Brazil.

*Who Will Be Involved?

Any AFLC (or other) young person who has completed his first year of college (or equivalent), who knows Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and who has a sincere desire to serve Him. College or Bible School training is desirable, but not required. The upper age limit is 25 years of age, but exceptions can be made.

*What Will They Do?

Youth under FLY to Brazil will travel to the mission headquarters in Campo Mourao in the southern state of Parana, Brazil, where they will ob-

serve and experience what it is to be a cross-cultural missionary. Church visitation, literature distribution, evangelism, Bible camp work, and manual labor are some of the missionary activities which will be shared by students.

*How Long Will They Be In Brazil?

Approximately six weeks, beginning with orientation at AFLC headquarters in Minneapolis, tentatively scheduled for June 13.

*What Will It Cost?

It could cost you your life! Through this the Lord may ask you to give Him your lifetime in service in a cross-cultural missionary situation. Financially, the approximate cost will be \$1300 per person. This figure includes all travel expenses and living expenses on the field.

*How Will It Be Funded?

Participants will be responsible for raising their own support under the guidance of the Luther League Federation. Local church and local Luther League support, personal savings, and job earnings can be sources for the necessary funds.

*How Will Applicants Be Considered?

On the basis of personal references, personal interviews and a simple questionnaire.

*How May a Person Apply?

By writing to:
Stephen Lee
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

*How Can I Help Support Youth Under FLY TO BRAZIL?

By informing youth of this opportunity, by encouraging them to participate, by upholding them in prayer, and by sharing in their ministry with financial help. If you are interested

in being a part of FLY to Brazil in these ways please write to the above address.

Six AFLC young people, supported by the prayers and gifts of local congregations, participated in FLY to Brazil in 1977. Miriam Johnson, Patricia Broden, Chris Gunderson, Renee Oscarson, Karen Ellertson and Joyce Lindgren spent a month in Brazil accompanied by Miss Viola Reed, a former missionary to Brazil and Stephen Lee now an AFLTS student. The FLY summer ministry began in the classroom as they met at AFLC headquarters at Medicine Lake for three days of orientation. A crash course in Portuguese and introductions to Brazilian culture and life were led by Deborah Abel, and Karen and Carol Knapp. Practical spiritual advice and experience concerning seeking God's will in missionary life were shared by Mrs. Grant Crooks, a missionary in West Africa, and Rev. Richard Anderson, as president of the Luther League Federation, shared Bible studies on fulfilling Jesus' call to serve.

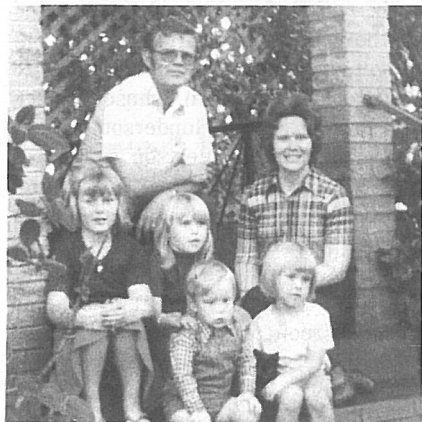
The following photographs depict the activities of the FLY group while they were in Brazil.

They lived in the Bible School dormitory seen here, located at the AFLC mission headquarters in Campo Mourao.



One of the joys experienced was living and working with the missionaries day in and day out and seeing that missionaries are human and need the strength of the Lord in their lives. The young people learned how God uses people and gives everyone various gifts to use. The missionaries were the FLY group's spiritual advisors, proxy parents, and good friends

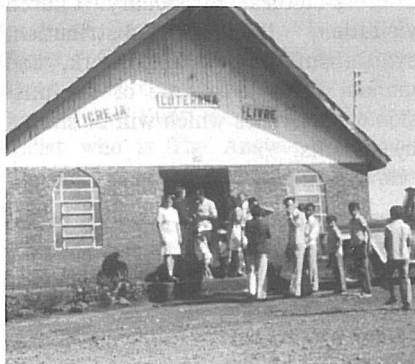
during their stay there and inspired each of the young people. Pictured below is the Connely Dyrud family.



The Bible tells us "to forsake not the assembling of yourselves together" and visiting the outlying congregations of AFLC believers was a weekly activity for the FLY group. This meant hours of travel over dusty, rough roads in jeep vehicles, but staying overnight in the homes of church members, sharing the Bread of Life with them and worshipping together were well worth the long trips. Pictured: church at Alvorada.



An active member family of the Alvorada Church, who graciously opened their home to the FLY group. The daughters attend the Bible School in Campo Mourao.



The AFLC church at Iretama. The FLY group would sing choruses and share Scripture and words of testimony at worship services.

Bible camp was perhaps the highlight of the time in Brazil as the FLY group spent a week with over 40 Brazilian young people in a situation very similar to Bible camps in the U.S.



Here the language barrier was lowered as we ate, studied, worked and played with Brazilian youth. Before the camp began, the FLY group and the Bible school students worked to prepare the camp buildings. Here Patricia and Cleodo are painting up a storm.

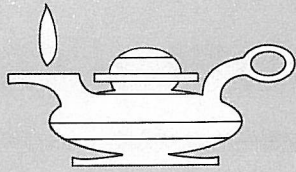
The testimony of Karen Ellertson summarizes the effectiveness of the FLY to Brazil summer ministry. "I can honestly say that, next to accepting Jesus as my Savior, visiting Brazil has been the most memorable experience in my life thus far. It made me visualize these people as real people—friends in need of a Savior. It gave me a desire to pray for the missionaries. Although I have been a Christian for eight years, I have never been in such constant fellowship with the Lord and fellow believers as during this ministry... the glory goes to God!"



Above is a group of the campers gathered at the dining hall. Some of the Brazilian youth who are not reached any other way are brought into the kingdom of God through the means of Bible camp. The FLY group experienced the oneness in Christ which crosses language and cultural barriers.



Bible study, quizzes, and question-answer sessions went on in the chapel area.



SCHOOL NEWS

THE KVANVIGS—THEY'VE OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO US

by Dean Rorvig

Last fall rumors had it that the dean of men was moving into his suite of rooms on second floor of the men's dorm not only with his wife but with his little girl! True, this was a bit much for some male students to handle; yet this situation has worked out surprisingly well, with the advantages mostly favoring the 38 men residents. Thank you, God, for leading this family to us.

Charlie Kvanvig, a Sebeka, Minnesota, native, met Sue, who is originally from Astoria, Oregon, while they were both attending AFLBS. They were married after Sue graduated. They now have a daughter, Bethany, age four, who has become a little sister to 38 brothers!

Charlie and Sue first met and developed a relationship because of their common concern for foreign missions. After AFLBS they attended Bemidji (Minn.) State College. Charlie felt a call from God into full-time Christian service while in Bible School. "I realized the importance of allowing God to direct and call me into the occupation where He would have me. We are to be available to His leading and direction," stated the 1977 graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary. Charlie acknowledges that the Lord placed a joy and a love for the ministry in his life.

Charlie feels God has given his family a call to AFLBS for future preparation. "I see being in God's will as what is important, and the geographi-



Charlie and Sue Kvanvig
and daughter Bethany

cal location is not important. Although I am not in the parish ministry, yet I see an eternity that is affected by the way that I conduct myself and the degree to which I challenge others to a dedicated Christian life. The message of Christ is to be born by all people regardless of the ministry God has called them to. There is always a mission field—that includes AFLBS."

When asked what type of student benefits most from AFLBS, Charlie answered, "Those with a humble-learner spirit, those who are desirous in growing in the Lord, those who have come here for the purpose of studying the Word. Everyone who comes here is affected because of the very presence of the Word. When the Word is applied to anybody's life there is a change. We're not looking for those who are looking for the limits of their Christian life, how far they can go and still be a Christian; we're looking

for those who are looking for the center of God's will."

Charlie sees Bible school as a place to train for life. "I feel we have a good program here. We don't center our activities around sports or academics, although they're a part of it, but we center our emphasis and concern upon godly instruction and experience."

Of all the dean's responsibilities, Charlie especially enjoys praying with his "fellows." "There is a bond there that cannot be formed in any other way."

"I'm satisfied in the parish ministry and I love the parish ministry. I love the Bible School here and am satisfied. Yet my heart goes out for foreign fields." He feels a deep love and concern for Brazil. The Kvanvigs have applied to go out under the AFLC mission board.

Charlie and Sue Kvanvig are a most hospitable host and hostess. This couple has developed an open, comfortable home away from home for many men's dorm residents. They are compassionate, understanding listeners and apt counsellors. They demonstrate great patience in this unique living situation.

For many residents they have become spiritual parents with their encouragement in the Christian walk and challenge to new Christian endeavors. Living in this dormitory situation the men have the opportunity to share one another's burdens and include Charlie and his family.

Charlie and Sue demonstrate unselfish giving and kind deeds: for instance, the individually-wrapped bag of cookies (including "named" decorated gingerbread men) found on each man's doorknob one morning before Christmas. In the dean of men's office one can find the undeniably best chocolate-peanut butter chip cookies on campus! There is a continuous supply of Russian tea and cocoa over the winter months. This couple tutors students and nurses the ill. They keep late hours to make sure all are in safety. They are not glorified babysitters but their actions of concern have been an encouragement for many. Deeds from the heart such as these are not soon forgotten.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

BAPTISM—A GRACIOUS GIFT FOR ALL

In the previous articles, we have considered some of the precious promises of God's Word regarding Baptism. Because of the promises of God in His Word, Baptism produces spiritual life. Through Baptism God bestows the gracious benefits of Calvary's cross upon believing sinners. Our interest now is to consider together the matter of who needs to be baptized or who should be baptized.

The Great Commission

In the great missionary call in Matthew, Jesus says that "all nations" should be made disciples and that the way to become one is to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (28:19-20). Faith in Christ is assumed.

The call is to baptize "all nations" with no limits regarding age. Whatever the age, all may be baptized. Does everyone need to be brought to Christ? For example, what about infants? Are they exceptions to the need? Do they really need to be baptized?

The Need of All People

The Bible teaches that infants, as all people, have need for salvation. Jesus died for the sin of little ones and wants them to enter heaven. Babies do not become Christians automatically at birth. No, they are born into the world in the condition of sin. This is called "original sin."

The Apostle Paul declares that the very nature of every person, young or old, is as a "child of wrath" (Eph. 2:3). Though the infant has not consciously committed any sins, he has a sin nature.

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that there are no exceptions in the need to be born again. He said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The need for the new birth, a spiritual one, is vital because "that which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). Spiritual life is not inherited from one's parents. All are born dead spiritually. Jesus explains, therefore, that every person needs to be born of water (Baptism) and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

The Testimony of History

In the New Testament, we do not have any explicit examples of little ones being baptized. It is well to remember, however, that this was the Christian Church in its earliest stages, comparable to the beginnings of the Christian Church on mission fields of the world today.

As missionaries today do not first of all baptize all the people they meet but rather preach the Gospel to them, so the Church of the New Testament proceeded. The foundation of the Gospel of Christ must be laid as the object of faith. Upon this foundation of the Gospel, the Church builds and brings her little ones in Baptism.

While there are no clear-cut cases of infant baptism recorded in the New Testament, there are several instances of entire households being baptized. Among them would be Lydia's (Acts 16:15) and the Philippian jailor's (Acts 16:33). It is possible that in these households there were also infants.

The witness of the Christian Church in the period just after New Testament times supports the practice of baptizing infants. If it had been wrong, it would never have entered the Church without a controversy. There is no indication of any controversy.

Conclusion

As Lutherans, we have a solid Biblical basis for all that we teach and

confess. However, it is not sufficient simply to hold correct doctrine. As baptized ones, we must all personally live in daily repentance and faith if we would know the real meaning of fellowship with Jesus, our precious Savior.

—Pastor Francis Monseth

SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD RECENTLY

Rev. Jay Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., was the speaker at services in Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton, N. Dak., April 2-5. Orville T. Olson is the local pastor.

Rev. Einar Unseth, Ortleigh, S. Dak., took part in special meetings in Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, N. Dak., April 10-12. On the 9th he preached at the Sunday morning services in the parish (Bethany, United and Stiklestad). Rev. Dale A. Mellgren serves the congregations.

In the American Lutheran parish at Bradley-Crocker, S. Dak., Dale R. Battleson, pastor, Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tioga, N. Dak., spoke at services during April 9-13.



NO CONFLICT

If it (Christianity) is the final religion, and divinely revealed, and if God is omnipotent and all-wise, then there is no place where the truth of God's religion can conflict with the truth of God's universe."

H. E. Dana



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



EGGS FOR MARKET

Each afternoon Mark brought two large baskets of eggs from the poultry house and set them on a counter in the cool basement. Here, Ann would take the eggs from the baskets and sort the eggs according to size. She could usually tell just by looking at an egg whether it was small, medium, or large. If she wasn't sure, she set the egg on a little egg scale to measure it.

Ann put the little eggs in a case marked "Small," the middle-sized eggs in one marked "Medium," and the large ones in a third case. Not all the eggs were glossy white, though, so they could be put directly into the cases. Some were soiled. A few might be cracked. These cracked ones Ann would put in a separate carton for Mom who would use such eggs for cooking and baking.

Ann cleaned the soiled eggs with a piece of sandpaper or emery cloth. It was this cleaning of the eggs that Ann did not like. What she did like about her egg job was the money she earned. Mom and Dad paid Mark a share of the egg money because he took care of the hens, and they paid Ann a share for her cleaning and grading of the eggs.

Once Ann had been careless about cleaning the eggs. To her surprise, she discovered that the people at the egg market had counted the number of soiled eggs in the Johnson egg cases. Mom showed her the egg check, and pointed out that they had been paid less money for the eggs that were soiled. After that, Ann was more diligent about her business (Prov. 22:29).

This day as she sat cleaning eggs, Mom and Melissa came down into the basement. Melissa asked her mother, "Why does Ann have to clean all the eggs?"

"The eggs must be clean if we are going to sell them. You wouldn't want to use eggs that are dirty, would you?"

"No."

"Well, neither do the people who are going to buy and eat our eggs. So it is our business to take care of the eggs the same way we'd want farmers to take care of eggs if we were city people buying eggs at a grocery store" (Matt. 7:12).

"Do some people like small eggs better than big ones? Is that why Ann puts all the small eggs in one big box?"

"Not exactly. While I'm sure that children would enjoy the smallest eggs once in a while—that's not the reason for sorting eggs. You see, it wouldn't be fair to expect people to pay just as much for a small egg as they would pay for a large egg. So we sort the eggs so that people who want small eggs can buy small eggs, and the people who want to pay more can buy the larger eggs."

"But what if Ann stuck a few small eggs with the big eggs."

"That would be cheating," interrupted Ann, "and I don't cheat!"

"Even if Ann happened to put small eggs with the big ones," said Mom, "the people who candle and pack the eggs in town would see that the small eggs were in the wrong box. And the man who buys our eggs would wonder

if we did that on purpose, and then he wouldn't trust us, or care to buy from us. But, folks at the egg market like to buy our eggs because they know we try to be fair and honest."

MEMORY VERSE: Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12 (RSV)

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Is Ann getting the eggs ready for market in a way that is according to God's Word? (Leviticus 19:35-36; Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 11:1; Ezekiel 45:10; Romans 12:17).

2. If Ann were to put small eggs with the large eggs, would this be the same as lying or stealing? Consider what the Bible says about cheating: Leviticus 19:11; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 12:22; 19:5; Revelation 21:8.

3. Is it possible for a person NEVER to lie in any way? Can you say that you have never lied? Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23)

4. Who is the only One who has lived on earth without sinning by lying? (John 1:14; 14:6; 18:37)

5. What is the only way we can be made sinless in the sight of God? (Romans 3:24; I John 3:5; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:28)

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

Little things in life do count. Not necessarily the big concerts where people applaud but often it is the little detours, a 15 minute stop along the way where friend meets friend and God draws near.

This is what we experienced when the AFLBS choir bus stopped outside our home at 729 So. Columbia Drive, at the Senior Estate in Woodburn. The choir had given a concert in Eugene the evening before and now they were on their way to Kirkland for another concert.

But instead of pursuing their journey direct, this bus full of songsters, together with their dean and director, decided to detour in order to visit the Stalsbroten.

Since Pastor Lars, who will soon be 91 years, did not attend the Eugene concert, these thoughtful young people decided to give him a private concert. Right here into our home they came, 36 strong. Our living room had never hosted so many eager smiling faces, all of them Christians who were on the road to sing praises to His Name.

It was a very moving demonstration of what our young people at our Association Bible School are really like. We were blessed and impressed. To each one of you and to your leaders we say: Thank you for coming! Keep up the good work, "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and do of his good pleasure."

Esther and Lars Stalsbroten
Woodburn, Ore.

A SUGGESTION

I enjoy the *Ambassador* very much. I like the articles real well.

I would like to make a suggestion that I think would be beneficial to the magazine. The example to look at is

(Continued on page 11)

Perhaps I was DREAMING

COME INTO MY HEART

I heard a group of children sing, "Come into my heart, come into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus." With radiant faces they sang, never doubting that You would come.

I wanted to join them, but how could I? My heart is no place for You. It is mussy and filthy and full of unrest, like an old stable. How could I ask You to come into my heart?

Where You are, the air is a-thrill with the songs of the redeemed; down here is the lowing of cattle, stupid and dull and unclean. Above You bends the eternal rainbow; the ceiling of my heart is sooty with the incense of self-love. The walls of Your home are radiant with precious stones; the walls of my heart are hung with galling memories. Where You are, the very streets are paved with gold; the floor of my heart is all tracked up with muddy feet. How could I ask You to come into my heart?

And yet—I need You. I am not satisfied with my heart as it is. Instead of a stable, I should like to have it a sanctuary. Instead of filth, I should like to have fragrance. Instead of the bellowing of brutal instincts, I should like to hear the melody of Your beatitudes. Instead of remorse, I should like to have the peace that passeth understanding.

How I have tried to attain to all of that! Again and over again I have set about to clean up the old stable and make it fit for habitation; make it what Your apostle says it ought to be: a temple of God. But labor as I will, I never get it done. I seem to make no headway at all. I am helpless and defeated. I need You.

But if You come, come not in glory as the King of kings. Come rather as a little child and take things as they are. What a bed I would offer You if I only had it, but I have nothing but a lowly manger; Yet Your presence would mean the hope of glory, for You could create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Oh, I need You, I need You. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

—C.A. Wendell

editorials

TWO SPECIAL DAYS

We shall not do much more than make mention of them, but two special days are near at hand and they both fall on the same date, the second Sunday in May, something that hasn't happened since 1967. We refer, of course, to Pentecost and Mother's Day.

Pentecost is the festival of the Holy Spirit and is one of the three great feast days (if we may use that terminology) of the Christian Church. The Holy Spirit is eternal and was active prior to Pentecost, but on that day He came in a new way (Acts 2), to empower the Christians and to make the message of Jesus known in the world.

Pentecost has also been called the Birthday of the

Church. It is that in the sense that it was on Pentecost that the task of bringing the Gospel of the risen Jesus to the world began.

Make something special of Pentecost in your congregation. Honor this gift of the Father and the Son to the Church, yea, for without the Holy Spirit there would be no Church.

The other special occurrence falling on May 14 is Mother's Day. Many people know this much better than they know that Pentecost falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter. But while Pentecost ranks first in importance, we are happy that our churches and our country have a day set aside to honor mothers. The influence of a mother upon her children can hardly be over-estimated. So much of a child's start in life is her responsibility. How fortunate the mother and the child where the Lord is permitted to be an active force in life.

God bless all Christian mothers. It is they of whom we think especially today. God guide and guard our Christian homes. Honor your mother and her day and not just the one day, but every day.

Beginning with our next issue we turn our attention in earnest toward the coming Annual Conference of 1978, to be held at our Schools and church headquarters in Minneapolis. In this issue you will find information about conference housing. Next time, the Ambassador will carry the conference program and other relevant material.

And, we do hope to have the information for you then about possible candidates for the office of president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We trust that people of the church are making this important matter a subject of much prayer.

MOTHER

The world grows better year by year
Because some sweet mother's in
her little sphere;
Is sewing on buttons, darning the
socks,
Humming a tune while the baby she
rocks;
Picking up toys that Bobby has tossed,
Finding for somebody things that are
lost.
Sweeping the floors and dusting the
chairs,
Making things "do" when money is
scarce;
Cleaning the house and baking the
bread,
Planning the meals for some time
ahead;
Nursing the children through measles
and 'pox,

Teaching Sonny to play with his
blocks.
Helping Sis with her first little letter,
Calling a neighbor to make her feel
better;
Answering questions that everyone
asks,
While doing all the other thousand
tasks.
Patching and washing, all must be
done,
Clothes found to "change" for
everyone.
She must make a trip out to the
garden to weed,
The chickens some food and water
need.
She irons the clothes and makes all
the beds,
Bathes all the children and washes
their heads.

With small folded hands, their tiny
feet bare,
They kneel at her lap and lisp their
sweet prayers.
Then she tucks them so snugly and
warmly in bed,
After sweet, childish "good nights"
have been said.
She cures Daddy's ills and mothers
him, too;
He's only an overgrown boy—mind
you—
God bless every mother who, year by
year,
Quietly fills her own little sphere!
God bless you, sweet mother; may
we revere
Your wishes when you are no longer
here.

—Mabel Prescott
Shevlin, Minn.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOUSING June 14-18

At the school:

First come basis—Reservations by June 1st
Dorm Rooms
\$4.50 per bed, per night pillows, linens, towels, included
Campers or trailers
\$3.00 per night; 25 electric hook-ups; showers in dorms. Contact the school: Conference Housing, AFLBS
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Golden Valley House Motel (Best Western)

(most rooms add tax)
4820 Hwy. 55, Mpls., Minn. 55422
Tel. 588-0511
Toll Free No. 1-800-528-1234
Single—\$19.00
Double—\$22.00
2 beds—\$24.00
Children under 12 free

Ambassador Motor Hotel (Best Western)

5225 Hwy. 12, Mpls.
Tel. 545-0441
Toll Free 1-800-528-1234
Single—\$26.00
Double—\$36.00
Four in a room—\$53.00 (children 3 yrs. and up, \$5.00 each)

Bungalow Motel

6221 56th Ave. N. (US 52 & Bass Lake Rd.)
Crystal, Minn. 55429
Tel. 533-5371
Single—\$15.00
Double—\$17.00
2 beds—\$19.00
4 adults—\$23.00
Family Rate—\$20.80 (includes 3 children 10 and under)

Sheraton Inn—Northwest

I—94 & Hwy. 52 55428
Tel. 566-8855
Toll Free—1-800-325-3535
Single—\$23.50
Double—\$29.50
\$5.00 for each additional person in room.
No charge for children under 18.

Radisson Inn—Plymouth

Hwy. 494 & Hwy. 55
Tel. 553-1600
Single—\$28.00—\$30.00
Double—\$36.00—\$42.00
\$6.00 each additional person. No charge for children under 18.

Voyageur Inn

2823 West Hwy. 12, Mpls. 55405
Tel. 377-7100
Single—\$20.50
Double—\$26.50—\$30.50
Four—\$34.00
Children under 12 free, but \$4.00 charge for crib or rollaway.

Cosmopolitan Motel

3431 N. Hwy. 100, Crystal
Tel. 537-3696
Single—\$13.00
Double—\$15.00
3—4 per room—\$19.00

Holiday Motor Hotel

812 N. Lilac Drive
Golden Valley, Minn.
Tel.—588-4665
Single—\$13.52—24.96
Double—\$15.60—30.16
3 or 4 to room—\$3.00 per person
Children under 12 free, no extra charge for rollaways.

Camping Trailers or Campers

Hennepin County Parks at Lake Independence
\$3.00 per night—no reservations needed
No hook-ups or conveniences
About 15 miles west of the school, so. of Hwy. 55
Nice swimming beach

KOA Campground

Mpls. Northwest I-94
Hwy. 101, Osseo, Minn.
Tel. Nos. 425-5811 or 533-4393

Homes There will be some homes available.

Make reservations before June 1.

Some homes will be closer to school than others (the sooner you put in your request the closer to school we can place you).

Let us know the number of people, married, single, children, etc. Those who stay in homes are asked to pay the same as the dorm to your hosts; however, many hosts will not charge.

Local area code: 612



STEWARDSHIP

FINALLY HELP IS COMING

For some time, people of the AFLC have been asking for help in estate planning and wise giving to our church's work. Conscious that God does expect His children to be wise in all things, and the Scriptures speak plainly about our giving, they want to be sure of obedience in this area of their living, too.

The following article has been prepared by a Christian attorney who has expertise in legal matters in the area of charitable giving and estate planning. He is a member of an Association church, has attended our seminary for a time, and is concerned that the Kingdom of God will continue to grow as our people make use of all their opportunities of support. The good intentions of people are sometimes thwarted because they have not been given correct advice and help, and what was intended for the church falls into other hands. Unnecessary costs are also sometimes experienced.

A counsellor will be on hand at our annual conference to give help to people who desire it in the area of estate planning, annuities and wills. Anyone wanting such help may correspond with us, or the chairman of the various boards, at any time.

Let us be in prayer that all of us may grow in our obedience to God's will and that all things be done decently and in order.

—Pastor John Strand

COULD YOU USE HELP?

This article is written to help you who already have a love for God's work to increase your knowledge of

various ways in which you can give.

As stewards of God over every blessing, everything we own, and as fully aware that there will be a time when we will each be called home to be with the Lord, I want to encourage you to have a will in effect always. So many of us as good stewards, carefully and prayerfully budget and wisely allocate our goods and money on a day by day and year by year basis, not realizing that part of good stewardship is the continuing of the same careful and prayerful management of our goods and money upon our death, however little remains. According to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you may, in your will, give to your church some definite portion or percentage, or the residue of your property.

Your banker or an attorney who works in estate planning can assist you by showing you different ways in which to give. Our government has arranged the tax laws in such a way as to encourage certain gifts. Of course, you already know that you receive tax deductions for gifts to your church. Did you know that corporations can also get a tax deduction for charitable gifts? Did you know that if you give a very large gift, you may qualify for tax deductions for the following years as well?

The tax structure encourages the arrangement that upon your death your house or farm goes to your church, but while you or your wife live, you keep possession and use the income from the property. The tax structure also encourages gifts of money in trust to the church, the donor keeping an income from that money for himself or for others while they live.

It can even be arranged that you give a sum of money to your church and the church promises you an an-

nuity while you live, with tax benefits to you.

You may also consider naming your church as the first or second beneficiary in an insurance policy.

If you are interested in exploring any of these or other ways of including your church in giving, in ways unfamiliar to you, you may talk to your pastor and he may recommend to you someone to see for further information.

May God give you His gracious wisdom as you continue as good stewards of all He has given you. Praise God for His faithfulness and presence at all times—whether in abundance or want.

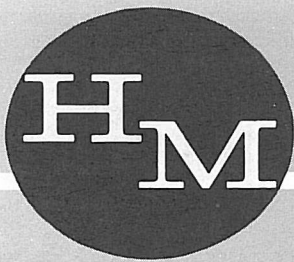
—Submitted

(Continued from page 8)

in the St. Paul (Minn.) paper. It is where people write and ask Dr. Billy Graham questions on the Bible and Bible-related subjects and he answers them in the paper. I was wondering if the *Ambassador* could have an article like that every time the magazine comes out. I think it would be beneficial and in the interest of the *Ambassador* to do this.

Loren Julin
Robbinsdale, Minn.

(Ed. note: A few years ago we did have a Question Box feature in the *Ambassador*. It ran more or less regularly for a while and then faded away through lack of interest. However, we shall keep reader Julin's suggestion in mind and explore the possibility of reviving the Question Box. It seems to us, too that it is something that people would appreciate.)



HOME MISSIONS

A PRAYING FRIEND

Have you ever experienced the blessing of God and the bond of love and fellowship as a Christian friend prayed for you? I'm sure many have had that experience and what a blessing it was for you and the one for whom you prayed. I believe such a blessing could also be experienced by established congregations of our AFLC in praying for a newly organized congregation. At the present time there are six Home Mission congregations that would welcome "A Praying Friend."

Pastor, if your congregation is one that would like to assist a Home Mission congregation in this very special and personal way, you are encouraged to write to one of the following Home Mission congregations and express your desire to become "A Praying Friend."

1. Triumph Lutheran Church
Nogales, Arizona
Pastor Lawrence Dynneson
2. Calvary Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Pastor Forrest Swenson to begin there around the 1st of July
3. Victory In Christ Lutheran Church
St. Paul, Minnesota
Pastor Gary Skramstad
4. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Dickinson, North Dakota
Pastor Elden Nelson
5. Bethel Lutheran Church
Minot, North Dakota
Pastor Terry Olson
6. Amery Lutheran Church
Amery, Wisconsin
Pastor Michael Brandt

As you write, ask them to make known to you their prayer requests, that you as a congregation may be

able to pray specifically for their needs, and then pray for that congregation every time you meet to pray. You may want to use your bulletin board and Sunday bulletin to remind your people of their commitment as "A Praying Friend."

May the blessing of God and the bond of love and fellowship be yours as "A Praying Friend."

Pastor Elden Nelson
Home Missions Director

"WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS"

(Romans 10:10)

These words, as many of us know, were spoken by the apostle Paul and they express a truth which is very much in harmony with the teachings of Christ, namely that believing in Christ is a matter of the heart as well as the intellect, and rejection of Christ is perhaps more often a heart or emotional problem than an intellectual problem. A statement which Christ made toward the end of His sojourn here on earth reveals this truth quite clearly. On this occasion He was speaking to His disciples concerning the response of the people to Him and to His ministry. Referring to those who disliked Him and who had rejected Him, He spoke these words:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father" (John 15:22-24).

The people here referred to had seen Christ, thus they had seen God. They had seen His mighty works. They had heard His word of divine truth. They had seen the holiness and the righteousness of God as well as the love and the mercy of God manifested in Christ but their reaction to Him was a feeling of antagonism and hatred.

We might ask, why this attitude toward Christ? Why this feeling of hatred toward Him? Several answers might be suggested, such as His disregard of some of their traditions, or the fact that He did not fit their preconceived idea regarding the Messiah whom they looked for. We recognize that this might cause some hesitance or reserve on their part but Jesus' words, "Now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father," indicate that the real reason for their attitude was much more deep-seated. Their hatred of Christ revealed an antagonistic attitude toward the very nature and character of God. Theirs was the natural reaction of unregenerate man toward Him who is righteous and holy.

Doubtlessly we all regard the attitude of these people as deserving of condemnation. Most likely we would never think of ourselves as being in their class. Perhaps, however, it would be well for us to examine our own attitudes. What is the nature of our reaction to Christ? What is our attitude toward the holy and righteous Son of God? We profess to believe in Him but are we willing to give Him His rightful place in our lives? Are we willing to live in fellowship with Him and be obedient to His will? Does Christ have first place in our lives? Do we truly love Him? Once, when speaking to certain people who claimed God as their Father, Christ said:

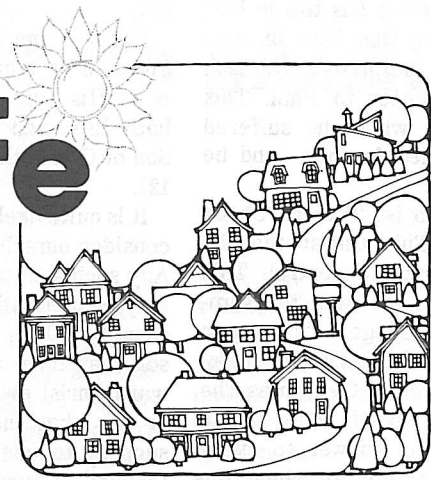
"If God were your Father ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me" (John 8:42).

At another time, when talking to His disciples, He said:

"The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God" (John 16:27).

(Continued on page 14)

Life on the Edge of Town



MEETINGS AT ORTLEY

It was my privilege to take part in a series of special services in our church in Ortley, S. Dak., Apr. 2-5. The week had been entitled "Deeper Life" and we considered as many aspects of the Christian life as we could in four evenings.

There was a brief revival of winter on the Sunday morning and a couple of the nights were foggy and another one rainy, but attendance was respectable anyway. The congregation had arranged for good special music at each service, including an appearance by a part of the chorus from Waubay High School. A coffee hour was held after each service.

It was good to be gathered about the Word of God and in this fellowship. We trust that the meetings were of help to all who came, to each according to his need. I know that the speaker benefits spiritually, for one.

It was interesting to be in Ortley for the reason, too, that I was present when the congregation was organized in January, 1971. And during Lent that year I conducted the Lenten services in Ortley Lutheran, coming over from nearby Roslyn. So there are the personal ties. The congregation has experienced numerical growth and

spiritual development under the ministries of John C. Rieth and Einar Unseth, my host in the parsonage during the recent series of meetings.

On the Sunday morning it was also my privilege to speak at the morning worship service at Calvary Lutheran in Wallace. Pastor Unseth is serving there until the arrival of the new pastor, Rev. Wallace Jackson. Twenty-five years ago I came out from Augsburg Seminary every other week for a while to conduct services at Calvary and nearby Egeland Lutheran, now served out of Waubay. If I hadn't been contacted first by Medicine Lake, Mont., in all probability Wallace would have been my first parish. So because of this past association, I celebrated a little anniversary that Sunday morning. It's always nice to get back to Calvary Lutheran, too.

WE HAD HOPED

On a recent Saturday my mother, sister and I attended the funeral of our neighbor, Sarah Roppe. For health reasons, she had to spend the winter at a rest home in Thief River Falls after being hospitalized last fall. Maybe it wasn't practical, but we had hoped that she could come back to her home for the summer.

We'd missed not seeing light over at Roppe's since she left. Actually, it was the first winter since the house was built, in about 1919, that it wasn't occupied. My grandparents Lee built the house and were the first to live in it. I have some of my goods stored over there.

The Roppes were good neighbors. I'm not sure just how many years they lived next door, a long next door. We enjoyed to stop in to visit with them. They were helpful in every way they could be, the way neighbors should be.

Richard passed away on New Year's Eve day, 1976, a few days after their 65th wedding anniversary. I was at his bedside in the hospital at the time. The family asked me to bring a greeting at each funeral and so I did, speaking in behalf of our good neighbors.

We miss them. Now we wish we had visited together even more. Life is often that way, isn't it?

—Raynard Huglen

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

A fellowship meeting sponsored by the Northern Lutheran Laymen will be held on Sun., May 21, 2:30 p.m., at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Art Joppru, Chm.
Joe Jacobson, Sec.

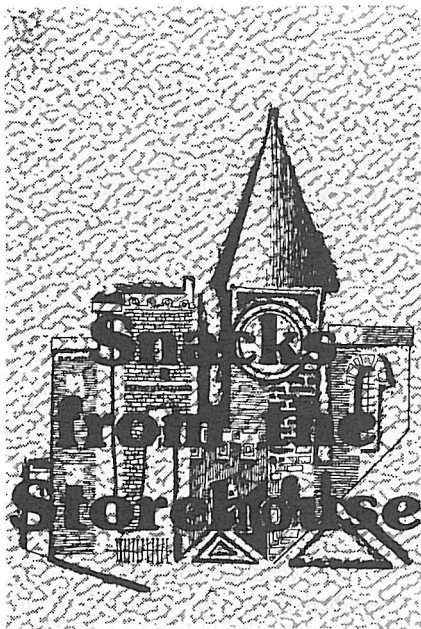
PERSONALITIES

Make note of these two new addresses:

Rev. Elden Nelson, 801 Southview Ave., Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601.

Rev. Richard Gunderson, 1355 Duncan Ave., Nogales, Ariz. 86521.

The Board of Foreign Missions, AFLC, advises that Rev. Dean Caselton, who served briefly on the church's field in Brazil and had to return to the U.S. due to health reasons, submitted his resignation to the Board, effective April 30. It is expected that he will be accepting a call from a parish soon.



THEOLOGY WITHOUT BARRICADES

"What do you know?" We have all been asked that question at one time or another. It really doesn't matter much. Paul answers that question without being asked. It gave him a chance to witness of His Lord. He could have answered: "I've tried life and have learned a number of things." But things didn't really matter so much to him any more. He had given up so many of them but he had gained so much in doing so. He had met Jesus Christ. "I know Him—and the power of His resurrection." He was the One who gave his life meaning and direction and power.

Theology can become so complex and meaningless and unattractive. It becomes so often a mere barricade keeping friend and foe in their place and at a distance rather than a road sign pointing to Him Who is the answer to a world's need. To my need.

Can you say with Paul, "I know Him?" Millions know about Him. Others know Him as a part of their creed. He died. He arose. He is coming back some day. The Apostle Paul knew Him in a more intimate way and he yearned that he might know Him even better. He knew Him as the One with whom he had had a personal encounter on the road to Damascus. His life was never the same after that. Those "of the Way" whom he hated before became his best and most intimate friends, with whom he shared Christ.

But Paul didn't look upon Christ as

some One who had crossed his life in the past. To Paul, Christ was a present Reality. Paul was with Him—"seated in heavenly places." Christ was with Paul—living His life in him and demonstrating that Life through him. The chains, the prisons, the lash—really didn't matter to Paul. This Jesus Christ, for whom he suffered all things, had died for him—and he had died with Him.

Paul tells it as it is: "I died—Christ liveth in me." This Christ that he knew was in complete control. This Christ whom he knew was the sum-total of his message. "I preach Christ." This is the Christ he introduces to the Church of Corinth as The Answer to their need. The Living Christ who is The Answer to every discouraged, defeated life along the way.

—Karl G. Berg



(Continued from page 12)

These words reveal quite clearly what our attitude toward Christ should be, and another statement which Christ made fits well into this context as a sequence to the truths stated above and may well be considered here. On a certain occasion when speaking to His disciples He said:

"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

We realize that the intellect has a place in the exercise of Christian faith but when we read the Scripture passages quoted above we can appreciate the significance of the apostle's words, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Another significant truth revealed here as well as elsewhere in holy Scripture is the fact that true faith in Christ results in spiritual union with Christ. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Christ said: "Ye must be born again." To be spir-

itually united with Christ is to experience the transforming and regenerating power of God. To be spiritually united with Christ is to have life eternal.

"This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:11-12).

It is quite likely that none of us would consider ourselves enemies of Christ. Any such accusation would quite probably be met with vehement denial. We should realize, however, that a person may have a negative attitude toward Christ even though that attitude is not what the word "hate" might suggest to one's mind. Perhaps the thought of committing one's life to Christ and being His obedient follower does not appeal to us. We may profess to believe in Him, but are we willing to receive Him? To have Him come and make His abode with us? When confronted with thoughts of this nature perhaps we sense within ourselves an aversion for holiness and a distaste for such intimate fellowship and communion with Christ. Such feelings are perhaps not uncommon even in the lives of some people who profess to be Christians. However, if we nourish such feelings and allow them to dominate our lives, then it is quite evident that we are in the same class as the people whom Christ was speaking about in the Scripture text which we are studying.

If we are conscious of such feelings within ourselves, we should, in the light of God's word, be willing to recognize them as manifestations of our inherent sinful nature and heed the Scriptural admonition to repent. On the authority of His word, we know that:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

By Merrill Ogarden
Bethel Lutheran Church
Minot, N. Dak.

Aspirations

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

MT. CARMEL WOMAN DID MISSION WORK

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church of McIntosh, Minnesota, was blessed this spring in being able to help sponsor the trip of one of its members, Mrs. Bill Hangsleben, as she traveled to Honduras.

Mrs. Hangsleben traveled to Honduras as part of a dental surgical team sent out by Medical Group Missions. The team provided free dental service to needy people. Mrs. Hangsleben is a dental assistant and traveled to Honduras with a team of 140 medical and dental personnel.

A Medical Group Missions team enters a country at the invitation of its government and the government officials allow project personnel to carry in medical supplies duty free.

One of the primary purposes of MGM is to demonstrate the love of Christ to needy people. During her two-week stay Mrs. Hangsleben helped as the team pulled 2300 teeth from people who came from miles to receive help.

Mrs. Hangsleben says, "We worked hard and the people were so appreciative, but the amount of work we did is not much in comparison to what could be done for all those who need medical and dental help."



Pictured is Mrs. Hangsleben injecting novocain and preparing a patient for the dentist's work. Notice the villagers waiting in the background.

To be grateful to God for His gift of life, for His grace in my Baptism, and for the assurance of His watchful care.

To love Jesus, my Savior, and to serve Him gladly in the enterprises of His kingdom.

To seek guidance from the Holy Spirit in the discovery of truth and to obtain power from Him for more perfect consecration.

To care for my body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, to train my mind for significant achievement, and to enrich my soul with the true, the beautiful, and the good.

To read my Bible every day and through meditation, praise, and prayer commune with my God, ask pardon for all my sins, and seek strength to resist temptation in every form.

To be loyal to my Church, to attend regularly public worship in the house of God, and to receive the Lord in the Holy Supper.

To honor my parents, to respect the aged, to be kind to the weak, and to aid the unfortunate.

To be loyal to my country and to perform faithfully the duties of citizenship.

To perform my daily tasks with a conscientious and willing spirit and to live so consistent and attractive a Christian life that others may be drawn to Christ by the influence of my example.

To participate in such amusements only as will benefit my body, mind, or soul.

To form the habit of giving regularly of my means for the Lord's work according to the degree in which He prospers me.

To be faithful unto death that I may obtain the crown of life.

—Martin Hegland

(From a plaque in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minnesota.)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

I have been reminded lately to write about a true story that was told by a speaker at the Lutheran Free Church convention in a town in northern Minnesota around the year 1928 and I want to share it with you.

A man was working on one of the tall buildings in one of the large cities of the eastern states. This man lost his balance and fell several stories down. He was picked up in a hurry and brought to the hospital, and was screaming in fear at the top of his voice, saying, "I am lost; I am lost; —

I am lost!" and could be heard all over the hospital. His brother, who lived in the same city was a Christian, was notified and he came as soon as he could. However, in the meantime this man lost so much blood he went into a coma.

The brother was so anxious to have a chance to talk to his injured brother about his soul and asked the doctor what could be done. The doctor said that if he was willing to donate blood his brother could possibly live for an hour. Certainly, he was willing to do that. In those days they didn't have the modern technique they have now; blood transfusions had to be drawn directly from one to another.

In the midst of this procedure his

brother woke up and was surprised and thankful to see his brother and asked if there was any hope for him to be saved. His brother gladly said, "I gave you blood that you might live an hour, but Jesus gave His blood that you can live forever." "Ah! then there is hope for me, too," and he passed away in peace, trusting in the shed blood of Jesus.

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:26).

Palmer Svaren
Sauk Centre, Minn.

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