

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 29, 1980

Mother,

You can never know how great an  
influence you have on our lives.

We love you,  
John, Karen, and Rachel

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Gary Skramstad



## Giving Rewards

"Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

This verse concludes the book of Proverbs and the virtues of a godly woman. The value of this noble woman has been expressed as she gives her life to her husband, children, the poor and all within her influence. Her faithfulness in all these areas is only a reflection of her devotion to her Lord. Yes, charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised (Proverbs 31:30).

As a young university student I had the opportunity to serve the Winger (Minn.) parish. On Mother's Day I delivered a sermon with the intent to challenge the mothers present to become better mothers. In so doing I spent a good deal of time exposing some of the neglect and failings of our modern "moms." Words were expressed to chastise the mothers and grandmothers into becoming the more

"noble" or "virtuous" woman. After that sermon, a dear mother and friend had the God-given courage to take me aside and express the concern that mothers would have been helped much more by a word of praise and encouragement. On this, their special day, yours truly managed to bring a feeling of hurt and disappointment to those precious people who had longed for a word of love.

I share this story because it would be a lesson that I would not learn as well in seminary. But even more than that, I am ever grateful to Bernice who loved me so much as to tell me the truth in love. We still talk about that Mother's Day. There are many other lessons in life that my own mother and other mothers have given to me to help mold me into the kind of person I am today. This is indeed true with all of us.

The prayers, tears, labors, words, actions and reactions in life, and faithfulness of you mothers have made deep and lasting impressions upon the children, the men and the other women in the AFLC. It is indeed time to give the reward you have earned. We say "thank you" far too seldom. We assume that others know how much they mean to us.

At times we hesitate to express our gratitude in fear that others might become puffed up and that God would not receive the glory due Him. Paul gives us some examples of how he encouraged the various churches. He thanked God for them and the love and faithfulness they possessed for God and man. As the Second Letter to Timothy begins, we find Paul revealing his memory full of love and devotion to Timothy and the special women in his life, Mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois. What a joy Timothy must have been to them. Proverbs 23:25 was a reality for them, as we read, "May your

father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice."

Mothers almost always retain a deep love for their children. But not all children are the cause of rejoicing. Love remains but joy can be dried up. Dear reader, if your mother's heart has little joy, it is time to give her the reward she deserves. Turn to God in repentance and faith. The flowers, perfume and other tangible gifts will never mean as much as life that is lived in harmony with God.

Shortly after the next AFLC annual conference, many of us who have the history of living in eastern North Dakota will meet for a reunion. A very special lady, Dr. Lillian Brekke, will be with us. She invested her time with us young ones as we met for weekly Bible studies. Several times our numbers would swell to 60 and 70. A number of teens accepted Christ during those special days. Many found their life mates there. But the real reward for Mrs. "B" and the rest of us who helped make those times available will be the witnessing of the living Jesus dwelling in the hearts and lives of the ones we prayed for and with. Hearts will rejoice as we will be together.

How will you honor your mother and grandmother this year? If you are not at peace with God, accept Jesus as God's gift to you. Mothers would thank you for your love but desire even more to have a heart of joy knowing that you are in fellowship with God. Our life in fellowship with God can be the best way to honor mother this year. Don't neglect to share your decision to walk with God with those many others who have prayed for you, taught you in Sunday School, opened their homes to you and even gave you words of wisdom in love. Thanks be to God for all the dear women who come into our memories as God's gifts to us!

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# My Mother

by Susan M. Nordvall,  
Roseau, Minnesota

*Her fragile beauty made you look again. Her auburn hair curled in soft wisps about her delicately flushed face. Large blue eyes showed more strength than her dainty form. Her children, demure flowers about her, were accustomed only to patient gentleness and a voice always soothingly low.*

You wonder of which by-gone mother I speak? A poet's mother to be sure! Bearing little resemblance to mine.

In retrospect we tend to paint unrealistic pictures of mother and perhaps that is as it should be. And what picture can I paint of mine? The thought reminds me that she was forever drawing pictures for all of us long ago. If I had all the cows she'd drawn for me I'd have quite a herd. She taught us to cut out animals like skunks and minks from used envelopes. The fold forms the back of the animal and thus he can stand on all four legs. Brown envelopes were the best of course.

My mother had nine daughters. And, yes, she had sons. Five. Mothers are different! They must be all-wise, since the beginning of time! Never full of giggles and pranks! But my mother told us about her school days! Incredible we were. She had been a young girl with girlfriends just like us. Incidentally, she'd once had a teacher named Mr. Aikenhead. That made her childhood different. We'd never heard of a name like Aikenhead in our lives.

I believe all 14 of us were born in a 17-year period. No beauty salons for my mother, no waves, no curls. Her hair was blue-black, so steadily held in a fast bun behind her that when she

uncoiled it to wash it, we children would gather round and wonder at its length and blackness. And she didn't like us staring at her hair! My mother was about five feet tall. I don't recall that she was ever ill. In fact, she was rather known for her strength and rosy cheeks. Curious, we children should all be so aware of her strength.

We used to live in old houses (my father worked for different farmers) with cracked wallpaper, especially upstairs. As children we never could comprehend our mother sending four of us girls upstairs for a daily afternoon nap. All four of us on one bed in sunny daylight! Sleep was the farthest thing from our minds. We'd lie there looking at the cracks and tears in the wallpaper and our imaginations created infinite creatures and stories. At times we had to take hold of the paper and tear it away further to cooperate better with our mood. Funny thing, what a long piece of wall paper you can pull off from one little start! The wall by our bed was one fantastic mural, showing various layers of paper. Some accidental jumping in the bed would get mixed into this and much laughter and always eventually Mother's step on the stairs! You know, I think we invented the dead-dog trick. When she arrived at the top of the stairs, we were all



## She understood her first responsibility

properly rolled over, under cover, dead to the world, holding breath and nose so as not to sneeze or giggle until we heard the steps creak all the way down. One of us usually managed to fall asleep during this crisis and so all the fun was over.

My parents were Christians and so I thought it the most natural thing in the world that Mother nightly gathered us all on one bed for Bible stories. But I've since discovered this was a rare and most valuable thing. Mother couldn't drive a car. She wasn't one to hustle us all off here and there. I don't recall her ever criticizing the church or calling the minister by his first name. And she never read Bible stories! She told them. Like her father before her, she was a storyteller. And we eager listeners could throw in lines or act out favorite parts. Sadie, my youngest sister, now a missionary in the Philippines, made a most pathetic blind Isaac, feeling how smooth sister Pearl was and how rough brother Johnny's "haystack" hair was. I was always most delighted with the line, "Mary has chosen the good part."



*"Mothers are different!  
They must be all-wise,  
since the beginning of time."*

## My Mother . . .

While we didn't leave our home very often, that didn't mean we didn't travel extensively. Every now and then Mother helped us line up all the chairs in the living room and we'd all board our train! Someone took our tickets and off we'd be. That train took us absolutely any place we wanted to go. We went horsebackriding, too, even though we had no riding horses or saddles. After all, what are old snow-fence slats for if you can't tie a string around one end and gallop off into the sunset on it! And flying! All you had to do was get Mother's bread raiser, run down the road as fast as ever you could and leap across the ditch. Well, at least we got to crash-land.

One very proud moment comes to my mind. We often heard Mother sing. But on this day, as we came home from school and were still on the road with a neighbor boy, she sang better than ever and the boy insisted that we had actually come by a radio. No it was just Mother. Incidentally, I recall this boy as being very mean and possessing an equally mean dog who had only one eye. He always licked our dog, anyway. One wicked eye was enough for old Rover. This boy had one brother, respectable parents, lots of rooms in his house and no cracked wallpaper. To this day, as far as I know, he knows nothing of the love of God.

We were anything but the stereotyped "poor but happy" family. Our family wouldn't have made a good movie at all, where everyone has one great crisis, learns his lesson well and then proceeds to glorious heights. We all did a lot of stumbling about, Mother, too. We were never allowed to use the Lord's name in vain but that didn't succeed in driving out the evil

thoughts that spring from the heart. Many wrong things were said by parents and child alike. There was tragedy in our home but through it all faith remained.

When I think back, I'm most impressed with my mother's ability to spring back. It seems that the years when we all depended so much on her were her strongest years. From somewhere she had the best to give. Christ was first. Nothing can ever uproot all that good seed sown in our hearts on a crowded bed so long ago. We have a destiny now with the King of Kings.

Mother had memorized countless poems and also taught us many songs. Here are a few of her lines:

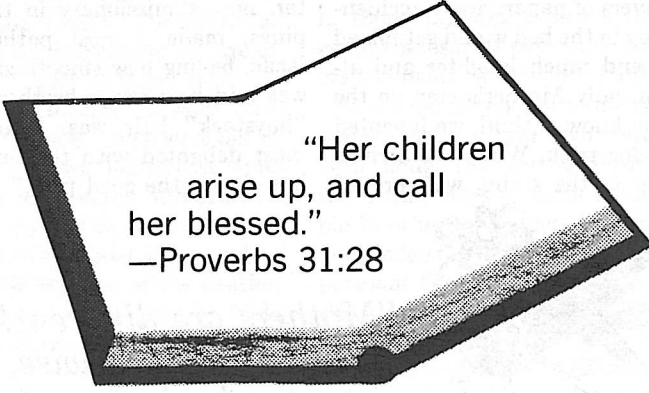
"The inner side of every cloud  
Is always bright and shining;  
I therefore turn my clouds about  
And try to wear them inside out  
To show the lining."

How well she wore her clouds inside out. She instilled in us the joy over finding a white wild morning glory, the love of harmonic sound, the song of

*"And she never read  
Bible stories!  
She told them."*

birds, the peace of atmosphere, quiet shadows at twilight on a warm summer night. Did she really bake, cook, wash and nurse us all continually?

Some of her "turning things inside out" was very realistic, like the countless old clothes people heaped on us, zipperless pants and bottonless coats, (a poor woman should rejoice in gifts and repair them!) We'd often fall



"Her children  
arise up, and call  
her blessed."  
—Proverbs 31:28

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## THE WOODPECKER

There's someone tapping on the maple tree:

tap-tippy-tap-tap-tap.  
He is hopping about so busily,  
in a cap as red as a barberry  
And a coat as green as a summer lea,  
And he's singing a laughing melody:  
tap-tippy-tap-tap-tap.

There's someone coming down the maple tree:

tap-tippy-tap-tap-tap.  
He's as gay as a prince or a lord, but he  
hasn't time to go round showing  
off, you see,  
For he stays in the woods working  
lovingly,  
At his snug little home for his family:  
tap-tippy-tap-tap-tap.

(The above poem, one which Mother sang, reveals her whimsical spirit.

—SMN)

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asleep to the music of the old sewing machine as she made new jumpers for all us girls for school. Shiny, colorful pieces were saved for collars and sleeves for blouses. Since we received a variety of old felt hats, too, I don't know if we were expected to wear them to school. Mother always made felt slippers for us bound with red bias tape. How comfortable they were.

In this story about my mother I realize I've said quite a bit about the children as well. I believe you can see the mother in the child. I do not challenge anyone to raise as many children as my mother did, nor do I hold up poverty as anything to be desired, but I must say I honestly shudder when I see new parents rejoicing over the birth of a child when everything about their activity declares they have no intention of making Christ a reality for that child. To bring an eternal soul into this life is an awesome thing.

I am thankful beyond words that I had a mother who understood her first responsibility.

(Susan Nordvall is the wife of lay pastor Gustav Nordvall, serving Badger Creek and Oiland Congregations.)



*Noble  
example  
of  
womanhood*

# THE PLACE OF MARY

By Rev. Ralph M. Rokke,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

What, in your opinion, are the three most important events in history? Every reader of this article has witnessed some very significant historical events and probably many.

Maybe you can remember World War I or World War II. Maybe you can remember the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Maybe the rebirth of the nation of Israel in 1948 or the landing of the first man on the moon in 1969 stands out in your mind as a very important event in history.

But what three events of history overshadow all others in importance? I would maintain that those three events are the birth, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those three events have significance not just for one group of people or even for one nationality or generation of people but for every human being who has ever lived upon the face of the earth. Those three events mean that every sinner has the opportunity to be saved and they assure us that the Lord Jesus Christ "shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom," as the Bible claims in II Timothy 4:1.

Now let me ask you another question. Except for Jesus Himself, who was the only human being in history to witness all three events? Who was not

only an eyewitness of them but also an important player in the drama of each? The answer is Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was present at the birth, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus. Except for the Son of God Himself, that cannot be said about any other person.

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**"She was present at  
the birth, the death,  
and the resurrection  
of Jesus."**

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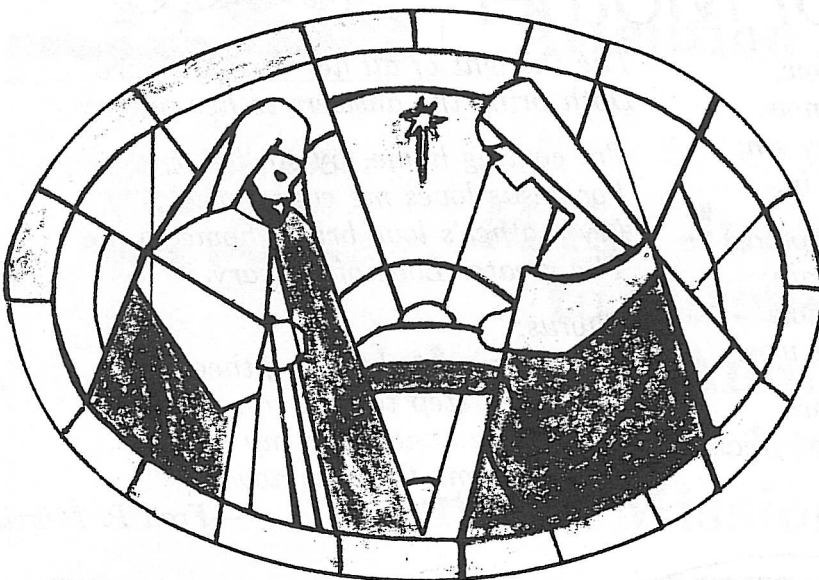
Certainly no one else had as great a role in the birth of Jesus. Joseph did not. Although he is an important part of the Christmas story, he was not the Lord's natural father. Mary alone was his natural parent and Jesus grew and developed in her womb. Mary gave birth to the Son of God. No other human being had a natural relationship to Jesus as close as did Mary.

Mary also was present at the crucifixion of the Lord. One of the Seven Last Words was spoken to Mary. Jesus said to Mary and to the disciple John, "Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!" Even in His dying hour Jesus acknowledged the bonds that had united Him to His mother and made provision for her well-being.

Mary, too, was one of the women who came to the tomb on the first Easter morning. It took courage for her and the other women to approach what they thought was a tomb guarded by Roman soldiers. Nevertheless they came, because of love for Jesus, and their faithfulness to the Lord was rewarded. Even before the disciples knew about it, these women had heard the good news spoken by an angel: "He is risen; He is not here."

Mary's role in the history of how our salvation was won is great and given Satan's desire and ability to twist what is good into something bad, it is not surprising then that some have come to worship her and to pray to her, just as to God Himself.

In the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, Mary is a mediatrix. She mediates between God and men, between Christ and His people. Recent changes in the Roman Catholic Church have not affected this teaching. The



## Mary . . .

Pope, while he was recently in Mexico, reaffirmed in public his devotion to the Virgin Mary. Roman Catholics are still encouraged to pray in the rosary: "Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death."

Mary is not a mediator between us and God. As I Timothy 2:5 tells us, "... there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus."

watching her beloved son being executed. Imagine the pain of Mary as she watched the Roman soldiers divide His clothing among themselves. She had no right even to them. Her son was so completely taken from her. The prophecy that had been spoken to her by Simeon when Jesus was still a baby had been completely fulfilled. He had said, "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

Thirdly, Mary is an example to us of consistent loyalty to Christ. Even when

"Christians owe to Mary a debt of respect and gratitude very much like that which they owe to their own mothers."

deserve to be respected and appreciated, but Mother's Day is also a good time to remember Mary.

Christians owe to Mary a debt of respect and gratitude very much like that which they owe to their own mothers. Your mother endured pain and work and hardship to give you physical life. Mary endured those same experiences to be God's instrument in giving us Jesus, who is our spiritual life.

In these days when many attack the Word of God, claiming that it does not honor women or assign to them important roles, it is good to remember the role of Mary. She made a contribution to the redemption story that could not have been made by any man. In giving her that role, God greatly honored her.

What is Mary's place? What should be our attitude toward her? The Holy Spirit spoke through Mary herself to give us the answer. In her Holy Spirit-inspired song, the Magnificat, she said, "... Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed" (Luke 1:48).

## "How then should we regard Mary?"

How then should we regard Mary? What is the proper attitude of a Christian toward her? It is, I believe, an attitude of respect and appreciation, and there are several reasons why we should respect her.

First, she made herself readily available to be used by God. When the angel Gabriel announced to her that she had been chosen to be the mother of the promised Messiah, she gave an answer that is a blessed example for all of God's people. She said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy Word."

Secondly, she has set us an example of patient suffering in the service of God. Imagine a mother's anguish in

she thought He was dead, she went to the tomb to further anoint His body for burial. She did not understand all that God was doing through Jesus His Son, but she was loyal to Him.

Finally, Christians owe Mary respect and appreciation because we have each benefited individually from her willingness to serve God. The Child whom she bore and the Son for whom she cared was *my* Savior. He has brought new life to *me* and therefore Mary's investment of love and time and tears in Him is one that has benefited me as an individual.

In our country we have an officially designated day for the honoring of mothers. It is a good custom. Mothers

## Memories of Mother

*My mother's hand is on my brow,  
Her gentle voice is pleading now;  
Across the years so marred by sin,  
What memories of love steal in.*

*Once more I see that look of pain,  
The anguish in those eyes again;  
My heart is sad, for well I know  
My sin has caused this bitter woe.*

*The memories of by-gone years,  
My mother's love, my mother's tears,*

*The thought of all her constant care  
Doth bring the answers to her prayers.*

*I'm coming home, by sin beset,  
For Jesus loves me even yet;  
My mother's love brings home to me  
The greater Love of Calvary.*

*Chorus:  
O Mother, when I think of thee,  
'Tis but a step to Calvary;  
Thy gentle hand upon my brow  
Is leading me to Jesus now.*

—Fred P. Morris



**ALEXANDER DUFF**  
**Missionary to India (1830-1864)**

Alexander Duff was another bright boy who began early to prepare for a useful life. He was a Scotch laddie, born in Perthshire, in 1806. At 15 he entered the University of St. Andrew. He grew to young manhood during the time of a great awakening in the interest of missions all through Scotland. Having become an earnest Christian, he heard the call to preach the Good News to the heathen, and when he was 23 he was sent as a missionary to India. The voyage was anything but safe and easy. Twice he nearly lost his life in a wreck; first on a rocky reef when rounding the Cape of Good Hope, and again on the coast of Ceylon. A third time he barely escaped with his life in a wreck near the mouth of the Ganges River. In the first wreck the missionary and his wife lost everything, not even saving a book from their library, nor any of their precious plans and manuscripts they carried. It took them eight months to reach Calcutta. Were they discouraged? Not at all.

The chief thing that young Mr. Duff intended to do was to open a school which would give a good education to Hindu youths. The language was to be English, so that the missionary teachers would not have to learn a foreign tongue. The Bible was to be regularly taught every day. The Orientals wanted all instruction to be given in Sanskrit, but they could not bring it about. The missionary had his way,

## a Page for CHILDREN

and did what he came out to do. How many students came the first day, do you think? Five. And where did the school open? Under a banyan tree. There was no other place, and this did very well. Before the first week ended there were 300 applications, and very soon there was a good building provided for the 250 accepted pupils. They learned English readily, and studied the Bible every day. By and by the natives began to feel that it was the Bible which made the English people different from themselves. They saw the kindness of the missionaries, and wondered over their leaving home to try to help others far away. They asked, "What makes them do all this for us?" and then they answered, "It is the Bible."

The second year, three times as many students came, and before very long the number increased to a thousand. Wasn't that grand progress? And many became Christians, and faithful ones, too, which was best of all. The story of one of the converts is very touching. A man came to one of the missionaries and told him that he wanted leave to die in his house. He showed in his worn face that he was near death. He was about 60 years old, and had been a Christian for 20 years. But he had "lost caste" by this, and was cast out by those of his own caste and family. No one would have anything to do with him. All these years he had lived alone, and had been faithful to his Master. Now he was sure that the end was near, and longed to die in the house of a Christian missionary. He was kindly cared for through five weeks of suffering, and then his pain and loneliness were over. Before he died, the missionary said to him one day, "Captain, (for he had been in the army), 'how is it with you?' The man's thin face kindled into a beautiful glow as he said, 'Jesus has taken all mine and given me all His.' The missionary asked, 'What do you mean by 'all mine'?' 'All my guilt, all my sin,' said the man. And what is 'all His'?' 'All His righteousness, all His peace,' and then he fell asleep—triumphant in Jesus.



In 1834 Dr. Duff, as he was then, went back home. He was in such poor health that he could not stay longer in India without a vacation. But he spent the time at home, as far as he possibly could, in going about and stirring up the people with his burning words, as he told of the great work abroad. He was asked to become the principal and professor of theology in the Free Church of Scotland, and urged strongly to accept. But he could not and would not, begging them to allow him to remain always a missionary to the heathen.

Returning to India, and then after a time returning to Scotland, he had many honours bestowed upon him.

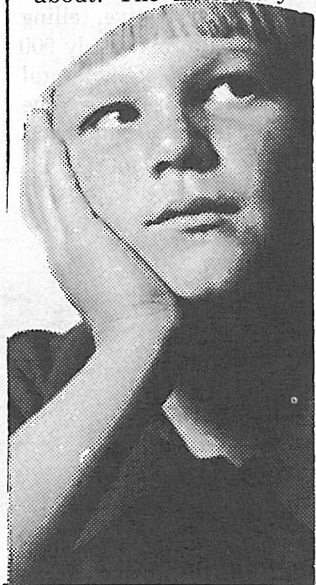
In 1857 the earnest missionary went back to India after having spoken to thousands upon the mission work. This time he opened a school for high caste girls, that is, girls of the highest class. There were 62 enrolled the first year. When examination day came at the close of the year, many high caste gentlemen of India came to the exercises, and said they were very much pleased with all that they saw and heard. It used to be said in the land that one might as well try to teach a cow as to teach a girl anything, but the girls showed that they could learn when they had the chance.

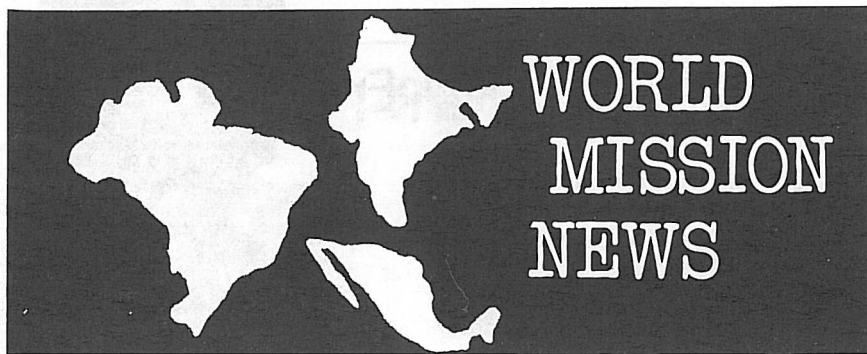
At last Dr. Duff's health failed utterly and he had to leave the field. For 14 years he helped the cause in the homeland, and passed away in peace, at the age of 72.

Julia H. Johnston,  
*Fifty Missionary Heroes Every Boy  
and Girl Should Know,*  
Fleming H. Revell Company

### MEMORY VERSE

**"But one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42**





## The beginnings of the work in Paraguay

### Advancing to new frontiers

**Missionary John H. Abel**

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee . . ." (Josh. 1:9).

This past January the Brazilian Free Lutheran congregations had their Annual Conference. A great spirit of readiness and willingness to advance the work of the Lord was evident among the representatives from our churches. They took some real steps of faith; for one thing they increased their budget 500% and designated all of it

Please hold this new beginning before the Lord in prayer.

Carlos and I decided that the best time for us to go to Paraguay and survey the possibilities for a new beginning would be the last week of February, just after the Bible camps and just before the beginning of the new school year. We had no trouble crossing the border. Getting into Paraguay is just like crossing from the U.S. into Canada. We headed for the small city of Hernandarias, the city nearest the large Itaipu Dam construction, about 15 miles from Port Stroessner. Hernandarias is a little larger than Campo Mourão and has grown fast in the last few years as Brazilian pioneers and construction workers have come into the area to work and to open up farms.

Our first effort after arriving in Hernandarias was to contact some of the pastors in the city and get an idea from them of the number of churches in the city and the general areas of need. We walked down one of the dirty streets and after a few blocks came upon a church under construction. Inquiring of the bricklayers, we found out that it was a Baptist church. Later we visited the pastor, an American missionary living in Port Stroessner. He told us his work is strictly in the Spanish language among the Paraguayans, but that about 50% of the people in the area were Brazilians and they had no pastor working among them except for an occasional visit that would come from Brazil. We also discovered a Brazilian Missouri Synod pastor who was having church in his home and whose ministry was almost entirely in the German language to groups of colonists scattered along the Parana River. We visited the Assembly of God work. It was also in Spanish. In all, we visited five different groups and felt we had a fair picture of the needs and the work being done in

this area. Most of the pastors emphasized that the new housing areas were in great need of evangelical work, so we decided to investigate this area.

One particular new housing area had been emphasized by various persons, so we decided to visit it. There are several such large areas scattered on both sides of the Parana River. Each area has from 500 to 1,000 families and is quite self-sufficient with its own supermarket, schools, parks and usually a church, which they call an ecumenical chapel, because it is open to various groups who may wish to use it. We had never seen anything just like this in Brazil, because normally every group builds its own church building, though the government may donate land for the church.

As we walked around Area Six we noted that it was entirely built of four-plex units. This means there were four houses in one unit on the ground level and all had rounded roofs, as you can see from the pictures accompanying this article. Near the chapel we saw a different colored building that someone pointed out as the administration office. Going into this we were soon directed to the social administrator. To our surprise she was a young Brazilian lady. She was very cooperative, telling us that there were approximately 900 families in the area and of that total about two-thirds were Brazilian. The Administrator told us she was happy to

*[Continued on page 10]*



Visiting four-plex homes in Hernandarias

for missions; i.e., half for the support of workers in Brazil and half for an outreach into Paraguay.

In connection with the Brazilian Association's decision to send a senior seminary student to open up and care for the work in Paraguay, I was asked to spend the first week there with the student. Carlos Antonio, who was a volunteer for the work, plans to begin the work, commuting on weekends; he will leave Campo Mourão Friday on the midnight bus and will be in Paraguay about 7 a.m., spend Saturday and Sunday in visitation and home meetings and then head back to Campo early Monday morning, arriving in time for the evening seminary classes. It will be a heavy schedule for him, but he feels the Lord wants him to do this.



Overlooking Itaipu Dam construction area. Pastor Abel is in the foreground.



# editorials

## SOBERING STATISTICS

George Gallup, Jr., sent along this statistic among others recently. Less than forty per cent of America's teens are presently receiving any religious training. We can believe that.

The facts are unadorned. For instance, we would like to know how many of the 61 per cent remaining did previously have some religious instruction. There must be quite a few who did. They at least had some contact. Some seed was sown through which the Holy Spirit can still work in their lives.

Our great heartache is for the children and youth who somehow manage to slip through the Christian educational process. Some do so because of the deliberate wish of their parents. In other words, they are forbidden to take part. Let them decide what they want when they grow up, the parents say. When that time comes, having had no meaningful contact with anything, it is unlikely they will choose the way of the Lord then. What a heritage for parents to pass on to their children.

Still other children never become involved in an evangelical church school program because their is no motivation in the home and no church makes the effort to gather them in. There are all kinds of reasons why there is this failure, but none of them are good reasons.

This is not meant to be hard on the churches. As Pastor Charles Kvanvig states elsewhere in this issue, 90% of the people in his city are unchurched. Therefore, the number of children outside of Sunday School influence is also going to be tremendous. Therefore, despite good intentions of our mission in Vancouver, Washington, and other churches there, many children are going to slip through.

In cities in general it is much more difficult to spot the children unreached by religious instruction. A congregation may have a good idea of what is what within two or three blocks of the church building, but after that it may get pretty hazy. In small towns and countryside it is much easier to know what families are on the periphery.

The present year marks the 200th anniversary of the organization of the Sunday School. This would be a good time to make a renewed effort to expand the outreach of our Sunday School, to include everyone we can in systematic weekly instruction in God's Word.

Will you consider what part you and your church can have in reaching out to children and youth in our generation? Will you accept the challenge of including the child or children of at least one hitherto unreached family in your Sunday School this fall? It is easy enough and simple enough to sit back and lament the darkness. It is much more useful to help light some candles and penetrate the darkness with the light of Jesus Christ. God help us.

## COMING CONFERENCE

Next time you will find the program of the 1980 Annual Conference in these pages. Already (April 1) a list of available housing for the annual gathering has been carried. Information about meals and other pre-conference material is still to come. The president and secretary, the Co-ordinating Committee, the local committees at Valley City and the *Ambassador* are doing what we can to get all information out in advance.

If all goes well, we hope to have more for you in the way of expected items of conference business in the various areas of the work. Such has often been lacking in the past, but we are all concerned in correcting the problem.

It is hard to believe that we are so near an annual conference again, a month and a half from it. The remaining weeks will go quickly. Valley City can in no way match the natural beauty of last year's site, Big Mountain near Whitefish, Montana. That was unforgettable. But Valley City has its beauty, too, a city lying in the valley of the Sheyenne River. Our congregations there, Grace and Zion, have hosted us twice before, so they aren't new to us or we to them.

We will have more to say in the next two issues and perhaps our readers will have something to share also as we prepare, all of us, for Annual Conference 1980.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEALS

### Wednesday, June 11

*Lunch:* Served Luncheon for Ladies

*Menu:* Turkey Salad served  
in Pineapple Halves  
\$3.25

*Dinner:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Roast Beef  
Fried Fish  
\$3.35

### Thursday, June 12

*Breakfast:* Served Breakfast

*Menu:* Sausage  
Scrambled Eggs  
\$2.75

*Lunch:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Sloppy Joes  
Chinese Chicken  
Casserole  
\$2.60

*Dinner:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Baked Chicken  
Lasagna  
\$3.35

### Friday, June 13

*Breakfast:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Fried Eggs  
Bacon  
French Toast  
\$2.25

*Lunch:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Hamburger  
Macaroni and  
Cheese  
\$2.60

*Dinner:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Pork Chops  
Swedish Meat Balls  
\$3.35

### Saturday, June 14

*Breakfast:* Cafeteria Service

*Menu:* Sausage  
Scrambled Eggs  
French Toast  
\$2.25

[Continued on page 16]

## At the base of Mount St. Helens

"For a great door and effectual is opened . . ." (I Corinthians 16:9).

Pastor Charles Kvanvig and his family had been praying back in Minneapolis (Minn.) that God would reveal His direction for their life. The congregation-to-be in Vancourver, Washington, about 30 miles from Mt. St. Helens, was also praying for a pastor to begin a new work in the midst of their rapidly expanding city. God, in His eternal wisdom, saw fit to bring both together for His purpose of saving and sanctifying people unto Himself. It is to this end that we both pray and labor on.

Vancouver Lutheran Church entered the first great and effectual door as we began Wednesday evening Bible Studies in August, 1979, for those who were interested. As prayer was raised to God for a place to hold morning worship services, God answered and we began Sunday morning worship and Sunday School in September in the multipurpose room of an elementary school in a new area of the city. While the attendance has increased at a slow pace, the vision of the vastness of the whit-

ened field that God has allowed us to see has thrilled our hearts and at the same time caused our hearts to weep for the thousands of Christless souls about us. The promise from Isaiah 32:20 has become ours: "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass."

The door to youth activities has been opened and fruit is being realized there, too. Enthusiastic and vibrant young people are seeking ways of draw-

## Paraguay . . .

see us, for she knew some evangelicals were visiting people and carrying on church work in other areas, but in this particular area no one, to her knowledge, was visiting or working with the Protestant families. She asked us if we would like to see the files to find out how many families called themselves "Protestant" or "Evangelical." We took advantage of this kind offer and, in a room turned over to us, we spent the entire morning going over the files. We came away with the names of 62 families. "Carlos," I said, "it looks like you have your work cut out for you; now we have to do some walking, and visit these families."

It was a very hot day and usually everything comes to a standstill for a few hours in the middle of the day in

Paraguay. We heard there would be a tour of the Itaipu Dam construction area at 2 p.m., so I said to Carlos, "Let's get in on that tour. It is too hot to begin visiting right now and we can start visiting about 4 o'clock, when the day begins to cool off." It was an impressive tour to visit this huge construction program, now in its third year. It will be 1985 before this Dam is fully complete and generating the huge amount of electric power of which it should be capable. (Please note the pictures below.) Right now construction is in full swing day and night and our guide said the expenses at present are 2.5 million U.S. dollars per day; perhaps one of the reasons Brazil has an inflation rate of 75% per year.

Getting back to Area Six we began our visiting and by dark we had found 12 families on our list. Three of these were of Lutheran background and two others were interested also in home meetings or Sunday School and church services. The next day was Saturday and time for me to head back to Curitiba where a new work is developing in our home. This will be a subject for another article, soon forthcoming, I hope. I left Carlos as he continued to visit more people on his list that Saturday and Sunday. He plans to come back each weekend to hold house meetings, his aim being to evangelize

and build up interest to the point where the people will want to have regular meetings in the chapel or in a rented building of their own. We invite you to pray much for the open door in Paraguay. We must have a resident missionary there soon, as it is only with a full-time couple that I believe the work will take on a permanent status. The last Annual Conference and several previous Annual Conferences from 1964 and on have voted in favor of the Tri-Nation goal and given a mandate to our Board to send workers into Paraguay. Included in the last Budget are funds for a new missionary couple. We pray that volunteers may be sent out this year, 1980.

Also pray for your Brazilian churches. It is encouraging to see that they are taking Christ's command "to go into all the world" seriously. We know the Church was commanded to "GO." We are not only to send help. The early churches in Acts often sent gifts or help to other needy congregations, but the Great Commission toward the world is "GO Ye." We are to be a going church that is seeing her sons and daughters going out with the saving Gospel. The Brazilian church, with all its trials and poverty, has dedicated itself to missions and we believe God's blessing will follow. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).



Street scene in new Paraguayan village



ing the *lifeless* souls to He who is the *life*.

Another door of outreach to the community was entered in February as the ministry of Dial-a-Devotion was begun. Numerous calls are received each day by those who seek a two-minute recorded devotional. Calls have also been received on the church phone expressing gratitude for the spiritual help that this ministry is to them.

The greatest open door of the work is the door of personal witness that each of us has received whether in Vancouver USA or in one's own home town. Our neighbors, friends and family become the objects of so great an outreach, for Jesus Christ is able to save *all* that come to Him. The statistics of 90% unchurched families in Vancouver may differ from place to place, but the eternal consequences are the same. The great and effectual door is open to us here. The opportunities are vast and the undying souls for whom Christ has died are at stake, but our God is greater and is able to make *all* grace abound (II Corinthians 9:8).

The key to these doors and all others is the secret place of the Most High. *Pray* with us that God would be pleased to use us as individuals and as a free and living congregation in bringing a revival to this great Pacific northwestern section of our country.

by Pastor  
Charles Kvanvig



## One of Washington's fastest growing areas

A gold-trimmed altar, a pulpit, baptismal font, and chairs quickly set up each Sunday morning transform the multipurpose room into a church for Sunday School and services for Vancouver Lutheran Church at Crestline Elementary School, with Pastor Charles Kvanvig in charge. Services were begun in this Home Mission church in September, 1979, with Sunday School and services each Sunday. A youth group has been organized and Bible study and prayer meeting is conducted each Wednesday at the parsonage.

Pastor Kvanvig has done much calling on residents in the community. He conducts a Dial-A-Devotion ministry, conducts regular monthly services in one of the rest homes, and a weekly Bible study in Cascade Inn Retirement Home. He receives a list of all new families coming to live in Vancouver and makes contacts.

Vancouver, Washington, is located on the Columbia River, across from Portland, Oregon, on Highway I-5. This city is rich in history from the early land and water transportation and the early fur trading business of Fort Vancouver and Chief McLaughlin.

Clark County is one of the fastest growing areas in Washington and there is a great need for a church. Vancouver city has a population of 47,000 and with the outlying area is a shopping center for some 160,000 population.

Clark County is rapidly losing its rich farming and fruit lands to asphalt for shopping malls and new industry, with two new electronic industries planning to locate here. A proposed development of 10,000 new homes is in the future.

Educational institutions consist of four high schools, eight jr. high schools and 33 elementary schools. The State Schools for the Blind and the Deaf are in this city. Three colleges, Clark, Evergreen and City College, are also located here.

This summer we are anticipating additional help and encouragement from several Bible School students who have volunteered to move out for the summer.

We appreciate the prayers and interest in our behalf in this new work. The fields are indeed white unto the harvest. Three young men from the Bible School will be coming during Easter time to conduct a survey for the area. May God richly bless their endeavors.

—Clara Thompson

## Attention All Ladies

**Make June Plans  
to Attend the  
Eighteenth Annual Convention  
of the  
Women's Missionary Federation**

**June 11-12, 1980  
Valley City,  
North Dakota**

# YOUTH

## What is your foundation?

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (I Corinthians 3:11-14).

What are you building with your life? What kind of foundation are you laying in order to build the kind of life that Christ wants you to have? Many times we hear from our young people, "We need the type of program that Popular Church has. They sure have a lot of young people and do a lot of fun things." And there are too often times when our young people leave their conservative home church for a more liberal and fun congregation, often with the comment, "There are no young people my age here," or "We don't have a program like they do."

Sure it is nice to be part of a large group, to have a large number of events taking place. But is it so important that personal beliefs and convictions are compromised for the sake of fun?

A few weeks ago I was visiting a member of my congregation in the hospital and she shared this story with me. I'll call her Mrs. Jones. A young

nurse who was taking care of Mrs. Jones noticed that she was reading the Bible. The nurse asked if Mrs. Jones was a Christian. "Yes," came the reply. Then the young nurse said, "Two years ago I was not a Christian but began to attend a congregation in our city that had a popular youth program but was liberal in its teachings and was very emotional." At that congregation the young nurse was shown the way of salvation and accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. Time went by and about a year later this young nurse began to realize that she was not growing in her Christian life and that she was at a standstill. The Bible tells us in II Peter 3:18, that we are to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

The young nurse said that the Lord then led her out of this church with its popular youth program to a conservative church with a small Bible-based program. As the nurse became involved in the youth program, she began to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, and began to build a solid foundation in Jesus in her life.

This is something that we all need to ask ourselves. What kind of foundation is being built in my life? Will it stand against the powers of this world and the powers of darkness?

The Bible tells us in I Corinthians 3:11, that the foundation of our life will be tested all the way through. In this day and age in which we are living we have seen things take place that should shake us to the very bottom of our being. We are being tempted and tested every day of our life. How are we doing? Are we using those temptations and testings as stepping stones to bring us closer to Jesus or as stumbling blocks to take us farther and farther away from Him?

Young people, as Christians, we are to live as God wants us to live and not as the world wants. Notice the other materials that are used in building foundations (I Corinthians 3:12): "gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble." You can see people in the world who have built their lives on the items mentioned in verse 12, and you have seen how all of the lives, homes and families that have been built on this type of foundation fall apart. Is that what you want?

Build your life on the true Word of God; not on what the world thinks it should be, but on what God teaches us it is. Build on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

There is a song that says, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness . . . on Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." Your one and only foundation is Jesus Christ, our one and only Savior from sin, death and the devil. Seek the Lord and His guidance today! Amen.

Pastor Stephen E. Odegaard  
Eugene, Ore.

## Resumption

This is the first regular issue of the Youth Page to appear in quite some time. For this I can only ask your forgiveness and prayers. There are some events in life that leave people, even Christians, groping for answers to basic life questions. It is most difficult when these questions are not allowed to have immediate, specific answers. Our enemy is quick to exploit us in our weakness. However, even the deepest pit is only a heart-cry away from Jesus. I believe that He is far more eager to lead us in truth than we are to follow.

My prayer now is to give God the freedom to make the Youth Page a vital ministry in His Church. However, it cannot be done without *your* input. The only way to increase our vision of what God wants us to do in and through us is to look up to Him and then *communicate what we see*. Please write and tell me what God shows you as we look to Him together.

In Christ,  
Tad Spading

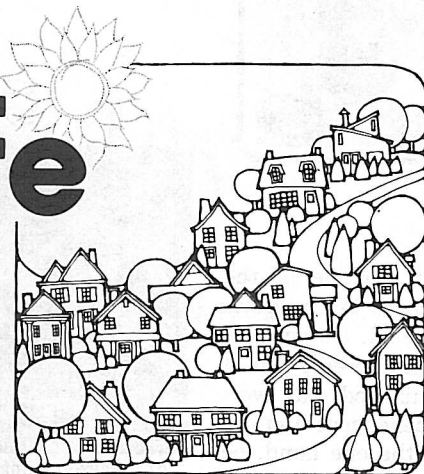
Devotional Life Secretary

*Next Issue:* In Spirit and in Truth: a study in spiritual reality.

**ALUMNI**  
**Plan to come to**  
**AFLBS**  
**HOMECOMING XIV**  
**October 10-12**



# Life on the Edge of Town



## Sixth Tour

From March 26 to April 2 I had the opportunity to travel with the AFLBS Choral Club on its annual tour. This was my sixth tour, in addition to one with the Chapel Singers in 1977 and several shorter stints with Gospel teams. I have enjoyed these associations with Bible School students also since leaving the employ of the School in 1977. I don't know if they will continue for me, but they have been pleasurable and of some use, I trust, to AFLBS.

The annual tours of Choir and Choral Club are arranged with the general plan of reaching every parish in the AFLC with one of the two groups every third year. In practise it doesn't quite work out that way. Some parishes are visited more often, some less often depending on how things work out at a given time.

The Choral Club tour this year was confined to northern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. The Choir tour included stops as far away as in Oregon and Washington.

## Spring Snow

On our way to the first concert at Bethany of Blue Grass (Sebeka), we ran into wet snow and the prospects for that evening looked anything but good. Fortunately, nearly all of it melted as it fell and there were no special problems. A good audience was present.

Bethany has been the starting point for a number of tours over the years.

On Thursday night we were at Grace Lutheran in Bagley. A rest stop at Park Rapids gave us the chance for shopping and relaxation. Director Don Rodvold bought a hat which served him for the remainder of the trip and likely for the Choir one also. At Bagley it was good to see my former assistant dean of men, Pastor Mauritz Lundeen. I stayed that night at their home between Bagley and Shevlin. I don't know if they've named their place or not, but "The Birches" would be an appropriate one.

We took the long way to Newfolden on Friday, spending a while at the Columbia Mall in Grand Forks. There weren't many shoppers there that day and I had my first really good look at it. After the concert at Westaker in Newfolden we had the privilege of having Don Rodvold as a guest in our home, here on the edge of town. Spring thawing had made it a very sloppy time outdoors.

Saturday morning we put on a program at the rest home in Karlstad. The elderly folks were very appreciative. It did our hearts good to share the Word with them. Then we drove to Thief River Falls for some bowling and lunch. Back up to Greenbush for the evening where the girl members, save one, spent the night in the church. Their most unforgettable night of the tour.

## Sunday Was Busy

We put on abbreviated concerts Sunday morning at Spruce and Roseau Lutheran Churches, with a fine dinner served at the latter. Ordinarily our concerts ran close to one and one-half hours but on Sunday morning we stayed close to one hour. In the afternoon we drove to Telemarken Lutheran, southwest of Goodridge. This is the church where I preach on Sunday mornings. The weather was ideal for a Palm Sunday.

That night we were at nearby Thief River Falls (Our Saviour's), where one of our largest crowds greeted us. It also brought out one of the largest gatherings of Bible School alumni. I got to spend the night at home in Newfolden also.

Now by Monday we headed into North Dakota for two appearances. On the way to the first, in Valley City, we used some spare time at West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo. That evening we had a spaghetti supper, my favorite Bible School supper in my five years there (1972-77). Grace Lutheran was also one of the places where lunch was served after the concert. Some do and some don't.

I was especially interested in our stop Tuesday night at Gethsemane Lutheran (ALC) near Tolna, N. Dak. I worked in the neighborhood in harvest my first two summers out of high school and that was the church I attended. Met many old friends. Stayed at the home of a couple I married in South Dakota, Jim and Jane Rasmussen. Our group had supper at the home of the Choral Club's accompanist, Carol Twedt. Two other ladies assisted in serving. The pastor, Rev. Harold Ovre, was very gracious to us.

I had to leave the tour on Wednesday in downtown Fargo in order to catch a bus home for a Holy Week commitment. The others went on to stops at Fergus Falls (replacing Hatton, N. Dak., on the schedule) and Upsala. Two days after leaving them I came down with a bad cold, which I have now dubbed the "uncommon cold." Conducting the service on Easter Sunday was a struggle but the Lord provided.

—Raynard Huglen



## A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



## News of the Churches

### Who are the heathen?

Ephesians 4:17-18

"The way you talk you make it sound like I'm a heathen." This interesting comment came from a young lady being visited by three young men from our church. These men had been attempting to show her the way of salvation. Apparently their telling her that all people are sinners and are in need of a Savior caused her to make this statement. Even though she didn't know Christ as her Savior, she did not want to be numbered with the "heathen." But, who are the heathen?

A Christian lady shared a conversation that took place between her three-year-old girl and a neighbor. The little girl asked the neighbor lady, "Are you a Christian?" Taken by surprise, the lady replied, "Well, I guess so. I consider myself a Christian. I live in the United States." Later she admitted that the girl's question had caused her to consider the matter more deeply. As a result, she did invite Christ into her life. And now she is telling other people about the abundant life in Christ and that she is experiencing. However, before she came to know Christ as her Savior and Lord, she apparently assumed that being an American was synonymous with being a Christian. Then who are the heathen?

The dictionary defines the word "heathen" thus: "an unconverted member of a people that does not acknowledge the God of the Bible; an idolator; an unenlightened or irreligious person." The Biblical word for "heathen" is "Gentile," a word commonly used for people who were not Israelites. In the New Testament times these people were hated and scorned. They were regarded as unclean and as the enemies of God and His people.

In the Bible we read of the heathen who worshipped other gods or idols. Sacrifices to these idols were offered by fire. Tables of food were set before them. And people knelt down and worshipped them.

One of the most horrible of the heathen gods spoken of in the Bible was the one called Baal. He was the Sun-god and was the supreme god of the Canaanites. This god was worshipped as both a beneficent and destructive deity. On the one hand, he was supposed to give light and warmth, but on the other hand, the fierce summer heat destroyed the vegetation he had brought into being. Therefore human beings were sacrificed to him to appease his anger in time of trouble. The victim, usually the first born of the person making the sacrifice, was burned alive. Certainly those who worshipped such a god were heathen.

A good description of the condition of the heathen is found in Ephesians 4:17-18. In these verses Paul is warning the Ephesian Christians to not walk as the Gentiles (heathen) walk. He writes, "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk." Then in verse 18 Paul says that the heathen have a darkened understanding, they are separated from God, and are ignorant and blind. Being ignorant of the One True God, they seek mainly food and drink and clothing instead of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The light of truth and the knowledge of Christ have not yet shined upon them. Therefore their understanding is darkened. In their spiritual darkness they have given themselves over unto sin. These are the heathen of whom Paul speaks.

However, is this not a description of many people in our own nation? For even though they are free from many of the brutal vices of some heathen people in other lands, yet they do not acknowledge the God of the Bible as their personal God. They love and trust in things other than the One True God. Since they have closed their hearts to Christ, they remain spiritually ignorant and blind. Although they consider themselves as Christians, they differ



Rev. Wesley Langaas, right, was installed by Rev. Richard Snipstead as pastor of Bethany Lutheran, Binford, N. Dak., and New Luther Valley Lutheran, McVile, on Sunday, Feb. 24.

### Personalities

The following have been involved in preaching missions this month: *Philip Haugen* (Minneapolis, Minn.) at Rose Lutheran, Roseau, Minn., Apr. 6-10; *Terry Olson* (Minot, N. Dak.) at Westaker Lutheran, Newfolden, Minn., Apr. 13-17; *Michael Brandt* (Amery, Wis.) at Our Saviour's Lutheran, Thief River Falls, Minn., Apr. 15-20; and *Wendell Johnson* (Stacy, Minn.) at Chippewa Lutheran, Brandon, Minn., Apr. 20-23.

### Laymen meet at Norden

Norden Lutheran Church, six miles west of Thief River Falls, Minn., will be the site of the May meeting of the Northern Lutheran Laymen's Society. It will be on May 18, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Text for discussion will be Revelation 13. All are welcome.

Art Joppru, president  
Joe Jacobson, secretary

from the heathen of other lands in name only. Yes, the heathen are those people who do not know the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; or if they do know of Him, they do not acknowledge Him and His Son by making a commitment to Christ. Let us therefore pray that the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ will shine into the hearts of those who are yet darkened, ignorant and blind. Let us pray that they will come to know the only True God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.



## Kjosos honored

Pastor and Mrs. Edwin Kjos were honored by Bethel and Faith Congregations on Sunday, March 23, at Bethel Church in Culbertson, Mont., with a dinner at noon, followed by a program, after which cake, punch and coffee were served.

The occasion was their 25th wedding anniversary and the day was the exact date of their wedding.

Mrs. Clifford Berglee was in charge of the program. Leif Sunwall led in devotions and brought good wishes from the group.

Mrs. Ted Thompson sang "O Perfect Love," which was one of the songs sung at their wedding. Mrs. Erling Brekke accompanied her on the piano.

Mrs. Orville Qualley gave a reading entitled, "The Family."

Daughter Karen, who is employed in Minneapolis, Minn., showed slides of the family from courtship to the present.

The cake was baked by Mrs. Joe Gandrud and decorated by Mrs. Gary Qualley.

Son Mark, who lives in Washington, was unable to attend.

The Kjosos have three children at home, David, Brenda, and Linda.

—Mrs. Orville Qualley



## Boscobel resident dies

Mrs. Anna Roen, Boscobel, Wis., was honored on her 90th birthday on Dec. 7, 1979. She was greeted by 110 friends that day at her daughter's home, Miss Elisa Roen. Norwegian pastries and rømmegrøt were featured and the day was a very pleasant one for her.

She passed away on January 16. She is greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Her daughter writes, "Mother thought very highly of the Association and the *Ambassador*. She read that from cover to cover each time, always commenting, 'There is so much good reading.'"

## Introducing our senior seminarians

### Mr. Charles Knapp



Ever since I received eternal life as a teenager and knew for sure that if I were to die then that I would go to heaven, certain portions of the inerrant Word of God have been of special inspiration and guidance to me. Portions such as Psalm 37, Matthew 6:33, I Corinthians 15:58 and Philippians 4 have been of special challenge and guidance in seeking God's will for my life's dedication and purpose.

In all of the above portions God promises to be and give sustenance in all areas of living to those who wait upon Him and seek His way and righteousness. First, this may be interpreted as being Jesus Christ. The first great need in our lives is to have our hearts cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus. I praise God that He has done that in my life and continues to do so daily as I come to Him in confession of sin (I John 1). Secondly, we seek not

the ways of the world but we seek to be transformed. We must think and act differently than the world at large (Romans 12:1-2).

God has a plan for my life and as I have sought to be guided by His Word and Holy Spirit, He has unfolded that plan to me day by day. He has brought countless blessings into my life, especially in these past two and a half years of seminary training. I look forward to coming years of service in the ministry of the Word, leading people to the Water and Bread of Life. I look forward to meeting my Savior in His Second Advent and to eternally praising my God for His great faithfulness.

## Abercrombie to host WMF

The spring rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Southwest Central District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will convene at Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, North Dakota, on Tuesday, May 6.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The morning session will open at 10. Pastor Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minnesota, will bring us the morning Bible study.

The afternoon session will open at 1:15 p.m. with Pastor Larry Haagen-son, Sedan, Minnesota, bringing the message.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson  
Secretary



## Two honored at Wadena

Mrs. Ted Tebben, left, and Mrs. Harry Kvanvig of Zion Lutheran Church, Wadena, Minn., were recently honored with Women's Missionary Federation life membership pins. They were commended for their faithful service and continuing support. Rev. Fred Carlson is the pastor of the church.

# Name chosen for AFLC Osceola property

We are thankful for the many name suggestions submitted for the Osceola property. Many meaningful names were suggested and from these the one chosen was The Association Retreat Center, The ARC.

May we think of and use The ARC as a place of retreat, refuge and spiritual renewal as God used the ark in Noah's time. May the ARC, as a center, be used of God as a place where we can come apart from the normal cares of the world for weekend retreats, conventions, seminars, Bible camps, retirement and other possibilities. Let us be mindful of Christ's admonition in Mark 6:31: "Come ye yourselves apart . . . and rest a while."

The ARC is already being used for retreats and conferences. Bible camps and retreats are scheduled for the coming months with one reservation made as far ahead as September.

Apartments are available from time to time for those who would like to move and/or retire here. We would like to start a waiting list for our Association people for these facilities. For information contact the director, Robert Dietsche, R. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wisconsin 54020.

The needs of The ARC are varied and many and we will try to keep you informed of them in future issues of the *Ambassador*. As we think of the summer months and Bible camps, we are in need of playground and recreation equipment, baby cribs, highchairs, used pianos, blackboards, etc. We would also like to schedule some workdays for volunteer labor from people of our AFLC.

## For sale

We have some surplus items for sale and think our AFLC folk should have the first opportunity to purchase these or put us in touch with someone who needs these items.

Three gas fired double ovens.

Several three-phase motor switches.

One Jackson commercial dishwasher with racks.

Several restaurant-type booths.

Three large air conditioning units.

Will sell at least two steam boilers—78-horse power.

The Coordinating Committee

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
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*"Come ye yourselves apart . . .  
and rest awhile." Mark 6:31*

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## Thank you

We would also like to acknowledge the following gifts from people of our AFLC:

Used Concordia Hymnals—Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Christian and American flags—the former St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota; firewood, dishtowels, dishcloths, potholders—Mr. and Mrs. Herman Dietsche, New Auburn, Wisconsin; dishclothes and dishtowels—Margaret and Evelyn Anderson, Sand Creek, Wisconsin; and two world maps—Rev. Charles Kvanvig and Mission, Vancouver, Washington. We would also like to thank those who have already donated labor.

*Sunday, June 15*

*Breakfast: Cafeteria*

Menu: Grilled Ham and  
Cheese  
Sandwiches  
Spanish  
Macaroni  
\$2.60

Please note: All lunches and dinners, exclusive of Wednesday noon, offer a salad bar, dessert and beverage, as well as other items, in the cost given. Other items offered also for breakfast price.

1. You must preregister for the meals that you plan to eat at the college.

2. We also must have your pre-registration for dormitory rooms. Cost: \$8.00/single; \$10.00/double. Remember, you must bring your own bedding, towels, soap, etc.

3. We *must* have your pre-registration for both the above mentioned items before May 20, 1980.

4. Mail all registrations to Grace Lutheran Church, Box 67, Valley City, N. Dak. 58072

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*Lunch: Cafeteria Service*

Menu: Hot Turkey  
Sandwiches  
Chili Fritos  
\$2.60

*Dinner: Cafeteria Service*

Menu: Swiss Steak  
Batter Fried Fish  
\$3.35

**Remember to make housing, camping reservations for  
the Annual Conference.**

**June 11-15, Valley City, N. Dak.**

*\*see page 16 of April 1, issue of The Lutheran Ambassador*