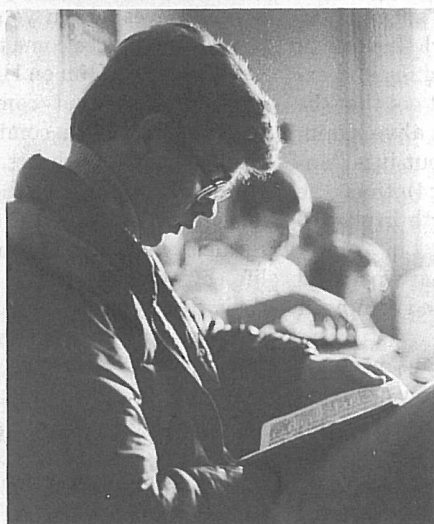
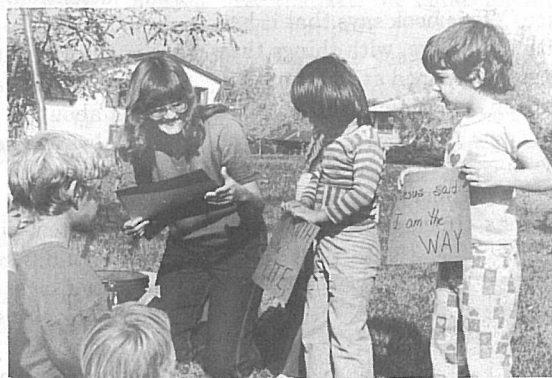
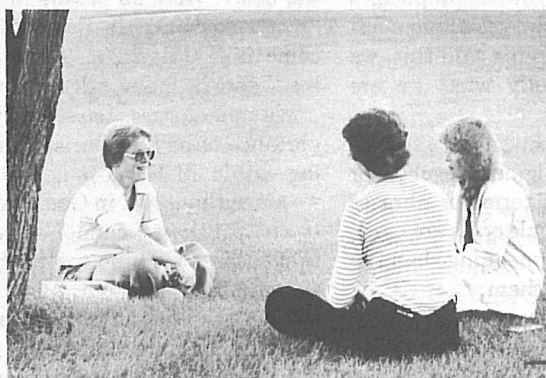


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 4, 1981

## Students . . . the heartbeat of AFLBS



# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

by Pastor Harvey Carlson



## What Is "The Second Coming"?

The previous article stressed the prominent place that predictive prophecy has in the Bible. Returning briefly to this matter, I call your attention to one other example: The Book of Revelation.

This last book of the Bible is interpreted in a number of different ways. But, any interpretation of Revelation, if it is to be correct, must follow what the book itself clearly states. The very first verse declares that this book will "show the things which must shortly take place." This book says that it has to do with the future, with things that have not yet happened at the time it is being written, but which will, without question, come to pass.

So, the book of Revelation is a book of predictive prophecy. In that sense, it is at least six times called a "prophecy" (1:3; 22:6, 7, 10, 18, 19). God's

blessing is pronounced upon those who read and heed it (1:3; 22:7). It is not to be sealed up or neglected (22:10). God's judgment will come upon those who in any way tamper with it (22:18-19).

### Defining Terms

Out of the vast amount of predictive prophecy which the Bible contains, in this series we are going to give our primary attention to those prophecies which have to do with the second coming of Christ. But having said this, we want to define exactly what we are talking about.

It is always a healthy thing to seek to learn what any religious teacher or writer means by the terms or phrases he uses. Often, biblical terms are used, but given a different meaning than the Bible itself gives to them.

For example, some speak of being *born again*, but they are not talking about receiving new life in Christ, but of making a fresh start, or of going on with renewed zeal. Others speak of the *resurrection* of Jesus, and they mean that the power of His teaching and example are still with us, but not that the body which died became alive again. Many talk about *Jesus*, but it is "another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4) than the eternal Son of God set forth in the Bible.

So then, what do we have in mind when we refer to "the second coming of Christ?"

A good place to go for an answer is Acts 1:11: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

On that Ascension Day, Jesus went away from His disciples as far as His

physical and visible presence was concerned. At His second coming, He will return to the earth in the body, and visibly. He will come "in just the same way" that He left. "He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Rev. 1:7).

### Another Coming

This is in contrast to another coming of Jesus, His coming to dwell within the heart. We read of this in Jn. 1:12, "receiving Him;" in Rev. 3:20, "I will come in;" Gal. 2:20, "Christ lives in me," and in many other places.

We cannot stress too strongly the importance of having Christ actually living within. If He does not so indwell, we are without life, in God's estimation (I Jn. 5:12); we cannot do anything that pleases God, no matter how hard we try (Jn. 15:5, Rom. 8:8-9); and we will not share in the glory to come (Col. 1:27). Make sure that Jesus Christ is not merely someone you know about, talk and sing about, but someone who actually lives within you!

Yes, Christ does come to the individual who meets Him on His terms (Rev. 3:19-20). But, that coming is not a physical or visible coming. We can't see Christ enter a heart, although the reality of His presence there will surely be evident afterwards. The 3000 in Jerusalem gave evidence of having new life, by their interest in God's Word, their desire for fellowship with other believers and in their love for prayer (see Acts 2:42).

### Returning — Why?

Why is Jesus coming back? We'll look at some answers to that question in the next three articles. †

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

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Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send annual \$5.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Volume 19, Number 16  
USPS 588-620



# AFLBS Students: A Profile

by Mary Rolf, Dean of Women

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103:1, 2). Truly our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Lord for each person whom He has sent to study the Word of God at AFLBS. Our thanks to those people who in earlier years had a vision for beginning a school whereby students could grow in their walk with the Lord, increase in knowledge and understanding of the Word and thereby become useful servants in the Kingdom of God.

A recent count indicates 839 students have completed at least one quarter at AFLBS. From where have they come? It is interesting to note that approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  or 67% have AFLC home congregations while the remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  come from a variety of church backgrounds. Eighteen states are represented. Minnesota heads the list with approximately 48%. North Dakota follows and Washington ranks third with over 60 students having come from that state. South Dakota is next and then follow Wisconsin, Montana, Oregon, Michigan and Iowa. Other states represented are Texas, Nebraska, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Arizona and Maryland.

AFLBS has had the opportunity of opening its doors to students who have come to us from several foreign countries as well. What a privilege to have a part in reaching into many parts of the world with the Gospel of Christ. International students have come to us from Brazil, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Norway, Germany, Egypt and, the Lord willing, this fall we hope to have one or two students from Guyana, South America.

In order to come to Bible School most of our students have had to leave home, family and friends, which has not been easy, and yet why have they

come? In looking through the files one finds a variety of reasons for an applicant desiring to study at AFLBS. One application reads, "I feel it is important for me to learn more about the Bible. I feel by attending your Bible school, I will increase in Christian maturity, which in my life is a necessity."

Another writes, "I want a good grounding in the Word of God before I go to college. I really feel the need for Bible education." A college graduate states, "I just recently became a Christian and I want to learn more about Jesus." A fourth student shares, "My purpose for attending Bible school is to ground my life on the Word of God and to find His will for my life. Both former and present students have encouraged me by telling of the great blessings of Bible school." A married student writes, "The Lord is leading my wife and me to go into foreign mission work.

Our students come from many states.



This will be my beginning in preparation for this field of service."

An international who came in 1971 shares her purpose as: "I want to learn the Word of God and then in the future return to Indonesia and there share the Gospel with my people." (Our readers may be interested to know Maurisi's goal and vision became a reality when in March of 1981 she along with her husband and young son returned to the country of Indonesia where they now make their home.)

With such a variety of backgrounds and places represented, what is it that unites students at AFLBS together? It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a love for Him, for His Word, and for His people.

On behalf of all who have been a part of the AFLBS family, we say thanks again to those who had a vision to begin a Bible school back in 1966. Thank you to those who by their prayers, gifts and encouragement have allowed this school to continue. Most of all we want to give thanks and praise to God from whom all blessings flow. To Him alone belongs the glory. Indeed, "The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100:5). †

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## DATES TO NOTE

Homecoming	Oct. 9-11
First Quarter Exams	Nov. 23-25
Christmas Recess	Dec. 19-Jan. 3
Missions Week	Feb. 3-7
Easter Recess and Choir	
Tours	Apr. 8-18
Graduation	May 21

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Fulfilling Our Purpose

# Preparing Youth for the Abundant Life

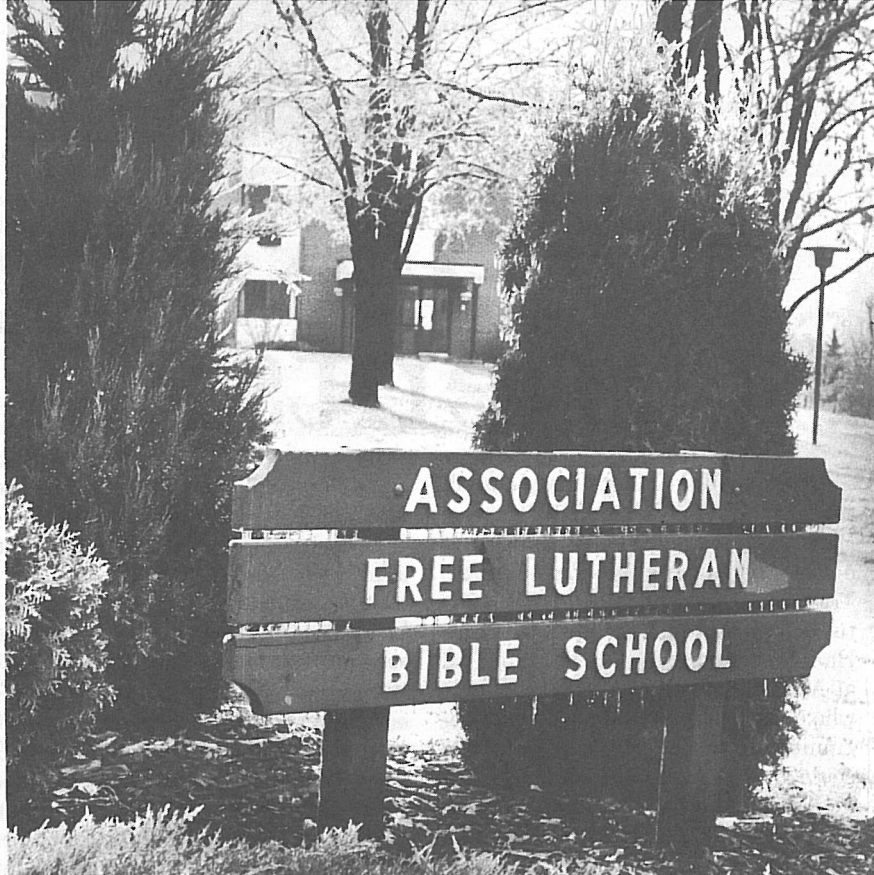
by Pastor Kenneth Moland, Dean

Association Free Lutheran Bible School was established in 1966 by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The Bible School was opened to meet the need for a conservative Lutheran Bible school where our youth, irrespective of race or color, could be given a firm foundation. The first class was enrolled in September, 1966, with 13 students

At that time, a fourfold purpose was adopted which governs the emphasis and policies of AFLBS. The purpose of Bible school is:

1. To bring youth into and establish them in the assurance of personal salvation in Christ Jesus through the study of God's Word.
2. To prepare youth to face a secular society in school and community by grounding them in the Word of God.
3. To assist youth to embrace the Truth as found in the Bible, and to reject the theological errors so prevalent today.
4. To challenge youth to seek to do God's will in all personal and vocational choices.

During AFLBS' 15-year history, it has become increasingly apparent that the living Word of God is sufficient to accomplish these noble goals in the lives of young people. Some students



have come to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior for the first time at Bible school. Some needed assurance, and the promises of the Word have always been sufficient.

Many have made important personal choices while at Bible school in regard to career, lifestyle, and life partner decisions. The setting of a practical study of the Word and available counsel from Christian friends and staff is a good place to wrestle with these ques-

tions and to resolve them with God's leading.

In these and many other ways, AFLBS has seen the blessed fruit of a ministry dedicated to teaching the Word of God. The eternal Word remains the same and continues to meet the needs of students and to fulfill the purpose of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, "Preparing youth for the abundant life." †

## APPLY NOW FOR FALL QUARTER

Beginning September 14, '81  
Financial Aid Available



# What Effect Does a Bible School Education Have?

by Cindy Schlenk, Executive Director,  
Alumni Association

"I'm going to vocational school; I want to be a secretary." "College is my choice—I need a degree to become a teacher." "My dad taught me well: I've worked this land since I was 11 and I'm prepared to continue farming in the family tradition." "I'm going to Bible school; I want to be a . . ."

Hmmm. What *will* the training at AFLBS prepare you for? Let's answer this question with comments from some of the people who have been there, OK?

## WHAT WAS YOUR PURPOSE IN ATTENDING AFLBS?

- To get a deeper understanding of the Bible and its meaning for today.
- I wanted more direction on what to do in life. I wanted to shape my goals to what was appropriate for me.
- I felt the Christian atmosphere would strengthen my relationship to Christ.
- Since I had recently accepted Christ, I was eager to read the Word. I was delighted there is a school to specifically teach God's truths.
- To study the Word and become more prepared to live my life here on earth.
- To get more grounding in the Word. I was attracted by the kind of people I'd met in the choir and my sister's friends.

## HOW WERE YOU PREPARED TO FULFILL THIS PURPOSE?

- I was assured that the Bible was what I wanted to pattern my life after.
- I learned to really include the Lord

in my decisions, to not only think of myself, but how I could serve the Lord if I chose this or that.

—In the Christian atmosphere I could see how Christ worked in other lives. I saw how close some were to Christ and it made me want to be closer, too. I learned a *lot* in the classes, but I was strongly influenced by the love of other Christians, the sharing, caring, the open doors to friends. I was free to talk, pray, and—*grow* with others.

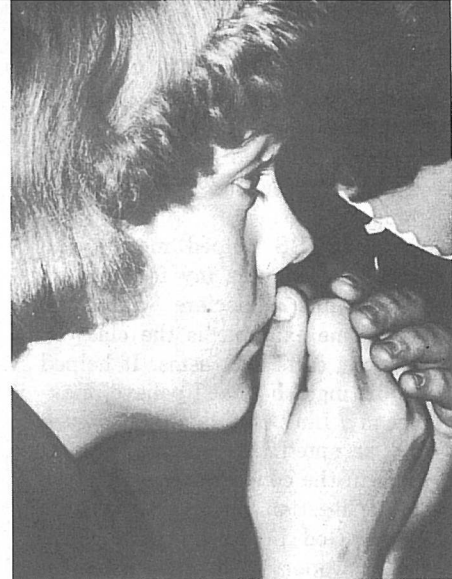
—Yes, I learned a lot about the Word. My studies led me to a deep assurance of salvation, overcoming many of the doubts I'd had at times by finding exactly what the Bible says. I also realized that I've begun a lifetime process: Scripture applies to every part of my life during every stage of my life.

—It strengthened me to stand for what I believe in. I became more of an individual Christian, claiming doctrines as my *own*, not just family beliefs.

—I wouldn't trade those two years for anything! I already had lots of Bible background from Sunday school, Luther League and confirmation. But my years at AFLBS made my principles stronger, my thinking more consistently bent toward learning to walk God's way. And I did meet wonderful people! I am so thankful for them and think of them dearly. To have friends who encourage me to deepen my relationship to Christ . . . they are gifts from God!

## IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU PRODUCTIVE AS A RESULT OF AFLBS?

—Our home is a big reflection of one



God has a plan for me.

influence of Bible school. I've realized that a Christian home must be *built*, not taken for granted. And the home is basic to my overall productivity.

—My career is a blessing, knowing God led me here, and I am prepared more fully to share Christ with others on the job, and any time. I'm also more accepting of other people's values, especially older Christians.

—We've enjoyed giving Bible studies in our home. I feel Bible school training gave us the courage to try this ministry. We are so grateful to have the background and study skills we can put to use.

—One of my most vivid Bible school memories is the class on prayer. And this is an area that continues to be more meaningful and important to me. The training I got at AFLBS early in my Christian life has taught me to be more willing to listen to God and be content with His plan for me. As my husband prepares for full-time ministry, I'm so grateful for the time I spent in the Word; there's more depth than I ever imagined, and I look forward to knowing my God better and better by further study and prayer all my life.

—The greatest practical influence of Bible school was being impressed with the value of participation in the congregation. This is a meaningful area of service for me. I've become willing to take responsibilities that I am asked to have; I *desire* to partici-

pate in the working of the church body. I also have an appetite for continuing education in church and seminars sponsored by Christian groups.

—Since AFLBS helped me become more confident in my faith, I am readily able to declare what I believe. One example is the class on different cults and -isms. It helped me distinguish what I believe, making my Lutheran doctrine proven and accepted. My early desires to serve in the congregation, to have a solid Christian home, and seek to glorify God in all things have all been supported and clarified at AFLBS. And I found another means of service, too: I've seen the value of AFLBS and desire to support it with volunteer work. My deep love for the school and its principles gives me a vision to see many more students have the same incomparable experience I've had.

Does this give you a better idea of the effect AFLBS can have? It certainly can:

- give you an eagerness to continue the application of the Word.
- sharpen the focus on God's purpose for you.
- influence you in attitudes and activities during and after school. †

#### EXECUTIVE POSITION OPEN

A new executive secretary for parish education in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is being sought by the Board of Publications and Parish Education. Such a person should be a mature Christian, a member of an AFLC congregation, have good language skills, executive ability and be able to conduct teachers' workshops. A background in education is preferred. It is possible that the office of education will be moved to Minneapolis, Minn.

Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact the chairman of the Board, Rev. Ralph Rokke, 5837 Pleasant Avenue So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55419. Telephone: 612/869-9261. Other Board members may also be contacted. Please do so by August 21.

## Letter to the Editor

### TWO CORRECTIONS

I write on a minor point, but one which I feel needs a notice. In a recent article on missionaries in Persia (Nov. 11, 1980), there was an editor's note that the Nestorians were an Eastern Orthodox Church. The Nestorian Church is not Orthodox, and it has not been in fellowship with the Orthodox Churches since the council of Ephesus, 431 A.D. As Orthodox scholar Timothy Ware indicates, they are Eastern Christians, or Oriental Christians, but not Orthodox Christians.

Pr. Molstre in his article "Watchful until He comes," June 9, makes another type of statement which is not accurate for Orthodox Christians. He states (p. 5) "On the diety of Christ, of all the great religions of the world, *only* Roman Catholics agree with orthodox Protestants concerning Christ's deity. *All other religions* and most cults make Christ out to be only a man. . . ." (italics mine) The (Eastern) Orthodox Churches use the Nicene Creed in the Divine Liturgy; accept the Apostles Creed and the Athanasian Creed (so-called) as valid statements of faith, though not on the same universal footing as the Nicene formulation. The canticle *Te Deum Laudamus*, itself a Trinitarian hymn, is found in the Orthodox hymnaries. While the (Eastern) Orthodox differ from the Western Church on the teaching of the procession of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead, they remain faithful to the orthodox Trinitarian formulation of the Council of Chalcedon. To dismiss these Churches as *unorthodox* in the sense of their concept of the diety of Christ is a grave oversight.

Pastor Gerard Blais  
Fall River, Mass.

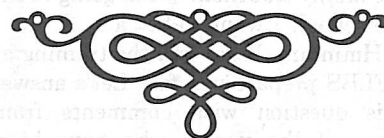
(Ed. note: We accept Pastor Blais' corrections. He is correct. In regard to Pastor Molstre's statement, I think what happened on his part and on my oversight is that we often *forget* about the Eastern Orthodox churches and do not include them in our discussions. And that, of course, is wrong.)

## Personalities

New address of **Pastor and Mrs. Harvey Carlson**, formerly of Grand Forks, N. Dak., is 169 McKnight Rd., #201, St. Paul, Minn. 55119. He is the present writer of our devotional meditations, "At the Master's Feet."

**Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland** will take up his work as pastor of the Lake Region Lutheran Parish (Tabor, Saron, Hope and Buffalo Lake) in the later part of this month. He and his family are moving into the parsonage in Roslyn, S. Dak., from Buxton, N. Dak., where he served for over six and a half years.

Also, **Pastor John DeBoer's** address is now % Sunset Home, Kenyon, Minn. 55946.



#### WITH OUR EVANGELIST— YOUTH WORKER

Here are the early fall appointments for Pastor Kenneth Pentti, AFLC evangelist. Remember to pray for his preaching missions as he brings the Word of God to the following places.

**Minneapolis, Minn.**

Faith Lutheran Church

Sept. 13-17

Rev. Ralph Rokke, pastor  
**Leeds, N. Dak.**

Lebanon Lutheran Church  
Sept. 20-24

Rev. LeRoy Flickinger, pastor  
**Drummond-Mason, Wis.**

Sept. 27-Oct. 1

Pastoral vacancy

**Shevlin, Minn.**

Landstad and Shell Lake Churches  
Oct. 4-8

Rev. Dennis O'Neil, pastor  
**Eden Prairie, Minn.**

King of Glory Lutheran Church (Ind.)  
Oct. 11-14

Rev. Wayne A Hjermstad, pastor  
**Boscobel, Wis.**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Oct. 18-20

Rev. J. G. Erickson, pastor



# WMF Convention

Our annual convention was held at Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minn., June 17-18, where we again enjoyed the beauty of the campus and its surroundings and the nice facilities. We met around the theme, "Christ: Our Treasure," and the theme verse, II Cor. 4:7: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." Our theme song was "Jesus, Priceless Treasure."

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson led our prayer service and opened with Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Rev. 3:20 is the key verse that opens the door to the realm of prayer. Prayer is the means of intimate fellowship. When Christians pray together there is unity in the body of Christ.

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, president, welcomed us to our special WMF Day. Mrs. John Schlenk was the song leader and opened the hymn sing by reading Col. 3:16.

Mrs. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich., gave the devotions for the morning session, reading Isaiah 33:5, 6.

Mrs. Richard Snipstead, WMF president of the host church, Medicine Lake Lutheran, welcomed us with Psalm 81:16. How much God is wanting to give to us and how He longs to fill our earthen vessels. Let us allow Him to do this as we share His Word. Mrs. Snipstead announced that the Amery (Wis.) ladies made the beautiful banner that hung in front of the church; the Morgan Ave. ladies made the table decorations and the Rosedale and Faith ladies served as ushers. (We sincerely thank these ladies and the ladies of Medicine Lake WMF for their Christian hospitality and for helping make our WMF day such a rich day of fellowship.)

Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, Minneapolis, Minn., a seminarian's wife, favored us with a vocal solo, "The Twenty-Third Psalm."

It was our privilege to have our present Bible study writer, Mrs. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis., as our Bible study leader. Her study was based on our theme verse. A treasure is very precious to us. Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break through and steal. Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

**THE BURIED TREASURE:** Let us examine the treasure of our hearts. Four things that might be buried treasures. *Materialism*—things that are tangible, touchable, cars, trips, extra income, etc. Do we treasure these more than we treasure the Lord? *Tradition*—anything that makes us comfortable: fame or success, pride, happiness, comfort. We should be open to something different that God might be leading us to. *Children*—they are a gift of God. Surrender them to the Lord. *Health*—glorify God in your body. How do we handle it when things take away the health of our body?

**THE PRICELESS TREASURE:** Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven. God says: "Seek first the Kingdom of God." In Christ we have *Salvation*, a precious gift, handmade by the Father, given to us by Christ Jesus. In Christ we have *Wisdom*. From the mouth of God comes wisdom (Psalm 119:130). In Christ we have *Joy*. How often have we really tapped the depth of joy we can have in Christ. Many things in life can bring us happiness but only Christ brings joy.

**THE TREASURE CHEST:** Paul is writing the whole chapter of II Corinthians 4 so we will not lose heart. Trials are an every day Christian experience. The more we are aware of our weakness the better we are. The power of God will rest upon us and see us through trials, and help us rely on God. We must totally yield ourselves to **CHRIST: OUR TREASURE.**

The Annual WMF business meeting

was held. The proposed budget of \$57,000 was accepted for the year 1982-83. The nominating committee for 1982 is: Mrs. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.; Mrs. Albin Haugen, McVillage, N. Dak.; and Mrs. Donald Olson, Fargo, N. Dak. The 1982 resolutions committee is: Mrs. Donald Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.; Mrs. Leland Nelson, Thief River Falls, Minn.; and Mrs. Martin Johnson, Badger, Minn. Elections were held. Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, N. Dak., was elected president; Mrs. Lois Oscarson, Abercrombie, N. Dak., 1st vice-president and Mrs. Vernon Nelson, Leeds, N. Dak., treasurer. Our president welcomed Pastor Samuel Flores from Mexico. Pastor Flores brought greetings from his congregation in Mexico. He presented gifts to Mrs. Enderlein and Mrs. Snipstead from his daughter who had spent some time visiting in their homes during the past year.

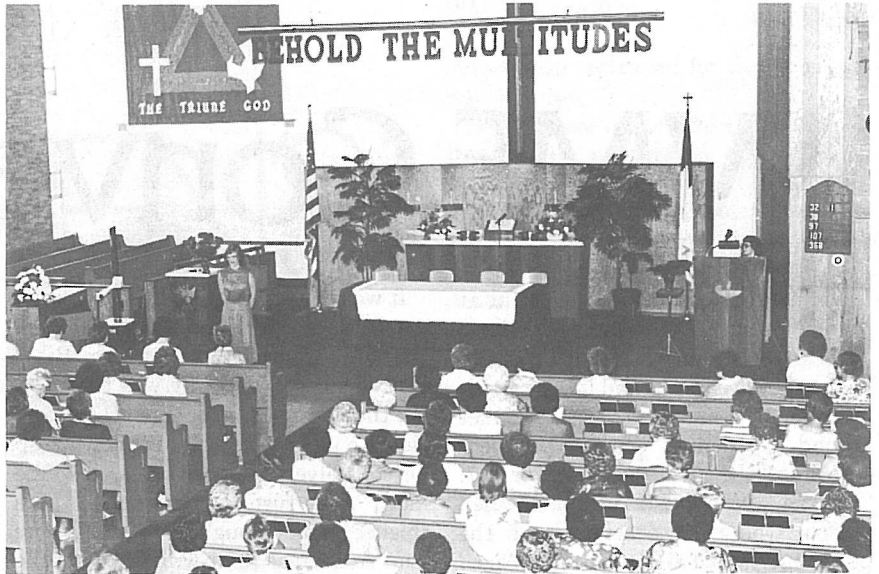
Mrs. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn., led the memorial service honoring WMF members who have departed from this life during the last year. She based her meditation on Matt. 25:34: "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (NAS). Representatives from the districts read verses and placed carnations in a vase in memory of our departed sisters in Christ.

The afternoon devotions were given by Mrs. Vernon Russum. She read Matt. 6:19-24. A ladies' chorus from Emmanuel and Hauge Lutheran Churches of Kenyon, Minn., provided special music. They sang "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" and "He Was Not Willing That Any Should Perish."

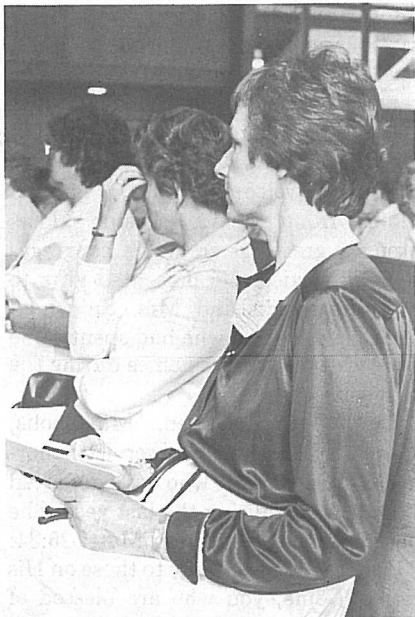
Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Director of World Missions, was our afternoon speaker. He urged us to have love and to care for one another. Rom. 14:7 tells



Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, now past president of the WMF.



Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, upper left, sings at one of the sessions.



A convention session.



The noon meal on Wednesday.



Barnabas team members sang.

us "No one lives for himself." We must cooperate together as a body of believers and organize our efforts and channel our money and our energies to send out missionary families, to build local churches and to train young men and women in God's work.

Mrs. George Knapp brought a personal greeting and read letters from Carolyn Dyrud, Priscilla Wold and Joyce Knapp. Mrs. John Abel was also with us and brought a greeting both from herself and Janet Abel. The missionaries all thank the ladies for prayer support and financial support and other materials sent to them.

Our 1st vice-president, Mrs. John Strand, presented Honorary Membership pins and gifts to Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, retiring president, and Mrs. Emil Hass, retiring treasurer, for four years of faithful service.

Judith Wold presented Honorary Memberships to Mrs. Michael Brandt for writing the Bible studies for 1981 and to Mrs. Amos Dyrud for her willing help down through the years.

The offerings for Wednesday were for my Missionary for a Day. \$3,717 was received. Two hundred forty-eight

[Continued on page 10]



# editorials

## THE CONCORDIA HYMNAL

Once again the subject of hymnals in the church has come up. We missed the Saturday sessions of the recent annual conference when a resolution on this matter was brought in by a delegate. So that we might all know what it was, we reprint it here: "Be it resolved, that the Board of Publications and Parish Education investigates the possibility of revising or reproducing a supplement to the *Concordia Hymnal*."

The resolution is awkwardly stated, but no doubt refers to revising *Concordia* or, as an alternative, producing a supplementary book to be used along with *Concordia* in the church service. If it were a matter of reproducing a supplementary book, such a book could simply be purchased.

According to the conference minutes, one of the pastors raised the question of whether or not *Concordia* could be revised. That does seem to be problematical. Better yet, we think, to start from scratch if it is felt that *Concordia* doesn't meet our needs, and that is debatable. The use of two hymnals in a service has never impressed us. Better to stay with one throughout the service.

Committee No. 4 has again raised the issue of the hymnody in the Association and we think this is good. What sort and type of hymns ought we to be singing in our churches? Is the wide diversity in effect now doing anything to the cohesiveness in our fellowship? Let's think about it.

## MANY THANKS, PASTOR DYRUD

The *Lutheran Ambassador* joins in tribute to Pastor Amos Dyrud, who has now stepped down as dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary after 12 years of service, ten of them as dean. And during all of those years he has also taught in the Bible school on the same campus.

It was a good day for the Association when he cast his lot with us after 20 years of service as a missionary to Madagascar, first under the Lutheran Free Church and then the American Lutheran Church. While he did not bring the training of an academic theologian to the job, he brought deep personal faith and piety, genuine concern for the men who would come to study at AFLTS, and an unwavering conviction that the work of the Seminary must be grounded in the sure Word of God.

Those of us who worked with Pastor Dyrud at the Schools at some time or other will always remember the sense of stability he lent to the faculty meetings, and to the Board meetings, where he represented the Seminary work. He is a man of honor and thus a man of his word. Students have testified to the warmth of his counsel with them, including his prayers.

It is good that Pastor Dyrud isn't stepping out of the picture entirely at the Schools, only reducing his work load and responsibility. We understand he will be available for some teaching from time to time. But not until he and his wife Ovedie take some time off to visit children in Colorado and Georgia.

Ovedie will be missed at headquarters building, too, where she has been secretary to the president, first for Pastor John P. Strand and then for Pastor Richard Snipstead. Part of her work also involved taking care of the *Ambassador* subscription list. So we shall miss her, too. She was a good presence in the offices of our church.

Thank you, Pastor Dyrud and Ovedie, for your faithful service to our church and other friends. The Lord lead you in your continued witness for Jesus.

## ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

### BUDGET RECEIPTS

Feb. 1 - June 30

Fund	Total Budget	Total Received to Date	% of Total (Ideal 42%)
General Fund	\$135,980.00	\$ 52,109.37	38%
Schools			
AFLTS	82,834.00	22,533.21	27
AFLBS	143,312.00	38,106.21	27
Home Missions	197,200.00	56,480.82	29
World Missions	218,880.00	47,308.58	22
Praise Fund	31,000.00	11,701.33	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$809,206.00</b>	<b>\$228,239.52</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>1980/81</b>	<b>\$582,237.00</b>	<b>\$149,246.88</b>	<b>26%</b>

# THE WOMEN'S PAGE

## Share Blessings

by Mrs. Kenneth Rolf,  
McIntosh, Minn.

"Jesus . . . saith unto him, 'Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee'" (Mark 5:19, KJV).

After we have come to know Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, He calls us to be His witnesses to share with others what the Lord has done for us. When a Christian awakens to the light of a new day, his prayer should be the words of a well-known Gospel hymn, "*Make Me a Blessing*."

### At Home

Our home is the first place God gives us to witness for Him. The Christian homemaker has countless opportunities in the daily routine of life to do all tasks "as unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23-24). This will make a difference, not only in the quality of work, but also in the amount of joy experienced while working.

My thoughts go back to the afternoon when one of our children said, "Tonight at suppertime, let's share blessings." That evening we each took turns and told what had been a blessing.

What has been the greatest blessing to you today? Perhaps a Bible verse has spoken very personally, or you have read something which has been a blessing to your soul, or an individual has brought special joy and encouragement to you. Sometimes we may have visited a shut-in and sought to bring blessing to him, but we have found this was

where we received our greatest joy and personal blessing of the day.

### With Others

I remember as a child going visiting with my parents to the farm homes of neighbors who were bedridden or shut-in. When Dad asked my sister and me to sing, we did so. As our voices praised the Lord, not only were we bringing a witness for Jesus, but we ourselves received a blessing in sharing. This has made a lasting impression upon our lives.

When in grade school, I memorized the following quotation: "Happiness is a perfume which you cannot pour upon others without getting a few drops on yourself." How true this is!

Sending letters, greeting cards, and appropriate tracts are things we can do from our own homes.

Whatever we do, our motive should be that the name of Jesus be glorified.

### Through Compassion to the World

As a Missionary Federation we seek to reach out in prayer and sacrificial giving to the foreign lands. As individual members we should ask ourselves: Do I *daily* pray for our missionaries? How long is it since I have written to them? Is my giving *sacrificial* or do I give only what is left over?

Praise God for His Word which we are privileged to share. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22). As we totally surrender and yield ourselves to the Lord, the greater will be our joy in serving Him. †

WMF Convention...

ladies were registered for the Wednesday sessions.

At the close of our afternoon session the surprise number on the program was a skit by the ladies from Amery entitled "Mirror, Mirror." It had a touch of humor and was very challenging to the ladies who saw it. WMF presidents: Watch for a copy of this skit in your fall packets.

Mrs. Enderlein closed the session with prayer.

### Fellowship Breakfast

Thursday morning, June 18, we had our annual Fellowship Breakfast. Mrs. Inez Wee brought a meditation, again bringing out our theme. She shared three verses with us: Matt. 6:21, Zach. 4:10 and I Cor. 1:18. A treasure is something of highly estimated value. In a few minutes' conversation with a person, it isn't hard to tell if his treasure is in this earth or in heaven. We are laying up treasures in heaven when we are telling others of Christ. We must be zealous for God's work. There is no power on earth that can stand before the work of God's people when we rely on God to help us. At the longest, life is short, so we must be about our Father's business, building up treasures in heaven.

Mrs. Lois Oscarson, our new 2nd vice-president, shared her testimony. She quoted I Thess. 5:24: "Faithful is He who calls you, and He will also bring it to pass." This is the promise the new officers will hold to. She covets the prayers of the ladies for her and the other officers. We closed with a period of prayer.

### Festival Service

The Festival Service was held Thursday evening. Mrs. John Schlenk led the hymn sing. Devotions were given by Mrs. Robert Lee. She read Jn. 3:16, Col. 1:4, Jn. 5:24, and Jn. 15:11, which dealt with Jesus, our Treasure.

Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, installed the new WMF officers. Our newly elected treasurer, Mrs. Nelson, was unable to be present.

Barnabas Teams I and II, the teams that are working in some of our Home

[Continued on page 15]



than our emotions; our intellect and our will are also involved. We learn from His Word that many responses are appropriate and helpful as we experience trial.

13.) List the response indicated by the verses and discuss how it may help us to rejoice in our trials:

- a.) Psalm 30:5b, 56:8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.) Psalm 119:15, 28, 49-50, 89, 92, 147 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c.) II Corinthians 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d.) I John 5:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e.) Micah 7:7, I Peter 4:19, Lamentations 3:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f.) II Corinthians 12:9-10, Deuteronomy 33:25 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g.) I Thessalonians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h.) Exodus 15:2; Psalm 28:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - i.) Nehemiah 8:10b; Isaiah 61:3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - j.) II Corinthians 1:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 14.) What specific promises regarding suffering do you discern from these verses?
- a.) Deuteronomy 31:8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.) Psalm 56:3, 11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c.) Psalm 28:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d.) Isaiah 42:3; Lamentations 3:31-33 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e.) John 16:33b \_\_\_\_\_
  - f.) I Peter 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

#### REFINED BY FIRE

He sat by a fire of seven-fold heat,  
As He watched by the precious ore,  
And closer He bent with a searching gaze  
As He heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand the test,  
And He wanted the finest gold  
To mold as a crown for the King to wear,  
Set with gems with a price untold.

So He laid our gold in the burning fire,  
'Tho' we fain would have said Him, "Nay,"  
And He watched the dross that we had not seen,  
And it melted and passed away.

And the gold grew brighter and yet more bright,  
But our eyes were so dim with tears,  
We saw but the fire—not the Master's Hand,  
And questioned with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow,  
As it mirrored a form above,  
'That bent o'er the fire, tho' unseen by us,  
With a look of ineffable love.

Can we think that it pleases His loving Heart  
To cause us a moment's pain?  
Ah, no! but He saw through the present cross  
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He waited there with a watchful eye,  
With a love that is strong and sure,  
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat,  
Than was needed to make it pure.

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Next Month: *I Enjoy Being Part of the Body*

—Mrs. Michael Brandt

# WMF Bible Study

## I Enjoy Being a Woman

September, 1981

### I ENJOY MY TRIALS AND TROUBLES

"I do?" This is the natural response expected from the title of this month's lesson. Certainly we are not suggesting the abnormal response of masochism which finds pleasure in receiving abuse or punishment. No one likes to suffer. A normal human does not take delight in pain. Yet with almost every mention of suffering or trouble in the Bible is the accompanying instruction, "Rejoice." Really, why does Scripture instruct the Christian this way?

Before reading on, take several moments to consider various experiences of trial or trouble. Define "trial" in your own words and describe areas of trial in general categories:

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

No doubt what each of us considers a trial will range from an annoying head cold to separation from a loved one. Of one thing we can be sure, suffering and trials are common to all. The degree of severity as judged by an objective observer really does not matter when you are the one experiencing trial. Each one's trial is still a trial to him and requires the same comfort, the same encouragement, a similar reliance on inward strength, and a spiritual acceptance of God's purposes and sovereignty. As the End draws near it seems that more and more Christian families are affected by a major source of trial. Let us walk through the valley of trial together and examine the paradox of enjoying our trials.

#### I. *Why Rejoice?*

2.) Read the passages, mark the prevailing attitude and record the reasons given for that attitude:

a.) James 1:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_

- b.) Romans 5:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- c.) Luke 6:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- d.) I Peter 4:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

3.) It is the attitude with which we enter a trial that will sustain us or defeat us. What is the exemplary attitude of Jesus? Hebrews 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

The Christian's joyful response to trial is undoubtedly an outstanding witness to the unbeliever. Understanding God's purposes in allowing trial may increase our rejoicing attitude.

## II. Reasons God Allows Problems

4.) *The Natural Consequences of Sin.* How is this expressed in Galatians 6:6-7?

- a.) So there is suffering that is not honored by God? I Peter 2:20, 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

b.) What is the purpose of this suffering? II Corinthians 7:9-10, Lamentations 3:40-42 \_\_\_\_\_

5.) *Discipline.* We applied insights from the spiritual discipline of Hebrews 12:5-11 in lesson 7. Review God's motive for discipline (v. 6) and the results of discipline (vs. 10, 11). Now read John 15:2 and answer three questions: Who does the purging \_\_\_\_\_  
to whom \_\_\_\_\_  
and why? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) Without a doubt there are attitudes and practices about every Christian which require spiritual correction. What is God's purpose and plea? Isaiah 48:10, 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
What is my plea? Jeremiah 10:24, Psalm 119:71 \_\_\_\_\_

7.) *Testing of My Faith.* Whenever we respond correctly to a problem, no matter how small, our faith grows stronger. An ivy flourishes its highest, thickest, and greenest when growing against a brick wall. The verses from #2a have already mentioned one result of our faith tested. In the midst of rejoicing, Peter gently warns that our faith will be tested, I Peter 1:6-8. How and why? \_\_\_\_\_

8.) Is there a difference between testing and temptation? James 1:13-14, I Corinthians 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_

9.) Does God seem far away when your faith is being tested? Two men of old give what insight? Job 23:8-10, Isaiah 30:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

10.) *God's Glory Is Uniquely Manifested.* Amazingly so. God sometimes has miraculous designs in our trials to majestically reveal His glory. a.) Substantiate this in John 9:3, 11:4. \_\_\_\_\_

b.) Yet, is the purpose of Romans 8:28 any less glorious? vs. 29 \_\_\_\_\_

It is God's highest purpose for each of us to be molded into the image of His Son. He uses the powerful Word and hopes to find us obedient and teachable. He uses blessings, revealing His grace and mercy, encouraging us to continue in His way. He also wisely mingles the use of trial to recreate my character like that of Jesus. This is God's goal as He allows trials.

## III. God's Inscrutable Ways

While we are experiencing trial we are tempted to question God, argue with Him, even disagree with Him. We don't understand His ways, and curiously think if we could only know His purpose we could bear the trial. We look about us and longingly wonder why God deals with others in a different way. Peter questioned Jesus this way about John when it was revealed how Peter would die and Jesus settled the matter with, "What is that to you? Follow me!" He says we do not need to understand His intentions if we but trust Him. Is that answer not enough for us?

11.) How we accept our trials depends much on our picture of God. What picture do you get from these verses:

- a.) Isaiah 40:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- b.) Romans 11:33-36 \_\_\_\_\_
- c.) Isaiah 64:4 \_\_\_\_\_

12.) Is it so hard to understand how good can come out of dark trouble? What is the connection between Exodus 19:9a and Isaiah 45:3? \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Murray's formula: "All things come into my life by God's appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time."

## IV. How to Respond to Suffering

God's children are not robots who react unfeelingly when He pushes buttons. He designed us with a full spectrum of intense emotions—those which burst our hearts with joy and those which break our hearts with sorrow. Yet as we grow in our understanding of the character of God, He enables us to respond with more



# A Look at Another Church in Convention

by Raynard Huglen, Editor

## The Convention

"Forward in Remembrance," that was the theme under which delegates and advisors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gathered for the 54th regular convention at the Cervantes Convention Center in downtown St. Louis, Mo., July 3-10. The convention theme was also used for a successful \$75,000,000 forward phase drive which was headed by Dr. Gerhard W. Hyatt of St., Paul, Minn., during the past two years.

It was my privilege to attend part of this convention in the headquarters city of the LC-MS. From time to time I have had the opportunity to attend conventions of other churches to see how they conduct their affairs. We don't live in a vacuum and we are influenced at least indirectly by what our fellow Lutherans do. So it is of value for us to take a look at them. Some of that which follows in this report won't be news to any reader, but I shall hope to give a few insights of my own.

## New President

Two pieces of news dominated the convention. One was the election of Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, below, as president,



succeeding Dr. J. A. O. Preus, who has been president for 12 years and chose not to run again. His term in office has been one of the most dramatic periods of time in the church's history, due to the doctrinal struggles which rocked the synod. Dr. Bohlmann, 49, prematurely white-haired, has been president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, since 1975. He was considered the ablest theologian of the five candidates for the position. He was elected on the fourth ballot over Dr. Charles S. Mueller, Roselle, Ill.

Dr. Walter A. Maier, Jr., son of the famed Lutheran Hour speaker and a teacher at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind., did not run as strongly in the race as expected. Some had considered him as the front runner even though he had been under attack over his views on objective justification.

The new president, Dr. Bohlmann, whom those of us at the Colloquium in Houston in 1979 will remember as a fellow attendee, is considered a conservative and he himself felt that, since he was not the candidate of any "group" prior to the voting, he would be able to serve all the people of the church equally. Dr. Bohlmann said that he hoped that the members of the Missouri Synod would "prefer to label themselves 'disciples of Jesus Christ' rather than conservative, moderate, or liberal."

## Fellowship Question

The second dominant decision of the convention was the one to terminate the state of "fellowship under protest" with the American Lutheran Church. By a vote of 590 to 494 the delegates broke off the relationship which had existed since 1969 (since 1977 "under protest").

As can be seen by the vote, the LC-MS isn't of one mind on the fellow-

ship question. But a motion on Monday afternoon to reconsider the matter failed. President-elect Bohlmann was given the privilege of the floor and spoke against reconsideration.

The Preamble to the resolution fracturing pulpit and altar fellowship with the ALC listed these areas as ones in which there is "growing evidence of disagreement" between the two church bodies: the inspiration, inerrancy and authority of Holy Scriptures; the meaning and implications of confessional subscription; the nature and basis of fellowship; the ordination of women to the pastoral office; membership in organizations such as the World Council of Churches; and varying practices regarding anti-Christian organizations.

But while the resolution itself did break off fellowship between the churches, it was conciliatory. For instance, the door was left open for LC-MS congregations and pastors, in certain cases, to "provide responsible care to individuals of the ALC," and for the Missouri Synod to "pursue doctrinal discussions with the ALC" in the hope that "God-pleasing altar and pulpit fellowship" can one day be established.

I heard the presidents of both the ALC and the Lutheran Church in America address the convention. Both were greeted warmly by the convention and applauded in the same way after giving their greetings in which they bluntly chided the LC-MS for its isolationist stance. For instance, Dr. James Crumley of the LCA said, "The proposal before your convention to break fellowship with the ALC causes us to fear that it will be an even longer time before the chasm can be bridged, a chasm that ought not to have existed in the first place."

Dr. David Preus of the ALC is a first cousin of Dr. J. A. O. Preus. In introducing the former to the convention, the latter said that while they disagree publicly, their personal relationship is friendly. He said that when David was going to school in the Twin Cities he stayed for a time with them, and at a time when his own wife (Mrs. J. Preus) was at the Sister Kenny Institute with polio and he was left home with two small children. David, he said, pitched in with the work necessary to keep the



Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Preus

home and family going. David prefaced his remarks to the convention by inferring that his cousin Jack's cooking wasn't the greatest.

It is my own feeling that the convention action to break fellowship is not going to mean a pullback to the position of 30 years ago. Actually, these three large Lutheran bodies are co-operating members of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. LC-MS and ALC have been doing some things together on the local level, too. I doubt that all of these contacts will be stopped. Church headquarters can't police all these things, nor does Dr. Bohlmann seem the type who will want to. But at least the break in fellowship does place a number of important questions on the table demanding further discussion. And that's all to the good. The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations should watch the continuing dialogue between these churches very closely for she has very real ties to both of them.

### Other Business

Among other items of business which attracted my attention in a special way was a resolution calling for the church to halt the decline in percentage of support given to the colleges by the church. It was reported that the percentage has dropped from 45 in 1965 to 25 at present. There is some feeling in the church that there are too many colleges and the church ought to cut back. However, the convention granted four-year status to St. John's Lutheran

College, Winfield, Kans.

In remarks addressed to the above resolution, Dr. Preus stated that over the whole church individual giving has dropped from three to two percent for synodical work. Congregations used to keep 80 percent of their income at home, but now keep 85 percent, he said. And whereas districts once sent in 70 percent of their income, now it is only 50 percent. He called on the Synod not to close any colleges or missions but to go out and raise more money.

The resolution, which commits the Synod to a floor of 25 percent support of operating expenses, passed and reaffirmed the worth of the system of higher education she has.

Another resolution set up a Stewardship and Financial Support Department to replace existing structures for financial appeals and to coordinate the promotion of stewardship of time, talents and treasures, including weekly offerings, mission education and promotion, deferred giving and special gifts.

It was interesting to me that in discussions involving money in the convention I heard some delegates stress the spiritual motivation for giving. That reminded me of our own conferences where that challenge is kept before us.

Before leaving the area of finances, let me say that the LC-MS was in debt to the tune of about 11 million dollars in May. It was a troubling debt, but, of course, not insurmountable to a church of 2,700,000 members. (The LC-MS ranks second only to the LCA in size among Lutheran churches in the U.S.)

### General Items

The convention had about five percent women delegates and most of them were quite young. In fact, it seemed to me that the average age of the delegates was lower than I remember from the previous conventions I've attended. Most of the delegates were at their first synodical convention.

Dr. J. A. O. Preus is a good parliamentarian, I think. Not a master in the sense of a Franklin Clark Fry, Robert Marshall or Kent Knutson perhaps, but very adequate and he keeps things loose with his humor and practical comments at the right time. Yet I saw him get into a real parliamentary mess

one day on a resolution to amend an article of the constitution. Our own AFLC conferences never get into parliamentary procedure very deeply and cannot be compared to these of the large Lutheran bodies in that respect.

Someone mentioned that the three great loves of Dr. Preus (after the Lord, I'm sure) are his wife Della, the Ozarks and Martin Chemnitz, a 16th century Lutheran theologian, some of whose work he has translated from the German.

The conventions open with a communion service, something which I wish we would do in the AFLC. Normally, every morning there is an hour set aside, at 10:15 this year, for what is called an Essay. Actually, it is a combination sermon-Bible study. This year several of them focused on stewardship—Time, Talents, Treasure. The presentations I heard were excellent. But I missed the times of free prayer which we have at ours.



Dr. Johannes Gedrat of Brazil, right, chats with a friend.

Among those I met at St. Louis was Dr. Johannes Gedrat, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil, living at Porto Alegre. He told me that he had heard the musical group from the U.S., Winds of Peace, and they had been well received. He spoke well of the program presented. The group has Mr. and Mrs. Paul Abel of the AFLC among its members.

The 1983 convention will be held in St. Louis for the third time in a row. Then the LC-MS will revert to holding conventions only every three years and the first of those, in 1986, will be in Indianapolis.



## "Grow in Grace" Was Convention Theme

"Grow in Grace" was the theme for our 1981 Luther League Federation Convention, July 7-12. The theme is taken from II Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity." The Lord surely blessed us with a wonderful week. The convention was held at the Association Retreat Center in Wisconsin. It was a beautiful place for a convention.

After registration on Tuesday, and everyone got situated in their rooms, it was great just to walk around and see many old friends from years before and also to meet a lot of new young people.

After the evening meal our evening service began at 8 with our evangelist, Pastor Kenneth Pentti, speaking. He surely is a great speaker. The Holy Spirit was really working in the lives of those young kids. It was great!

Each morning after breakfast everyone cleaned their rooms for inspection.

Our first class was Bible Truths with Pastor Philip Rokke of Reva, S. Dak. This was really a good class and I'm sure we all learned a lot.

Our next session was called "Knowing and Using Your Spiritual Gifts." Pastor Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich., was our teacher. I know I really looked forward to going to this class each day. I learned a lot about finding and using my spiritual gifts.

We also had a class on Home Missions where Pastor Elden Nelson shared with us and also showed us slides on our Home Mission churches. We also had a class on music by Mr. Don Rodvold of the AFLBS faculty and a class on Cult Characteristics with Pastor Robert Lee, also of the Schools faculty. He talked and shared about the marks of a cult and how we have to be aware of these cults and know at least a little bit about them. It was a great class.

We also had a time of singing, getting our lungs working, in the choir, with Don Rodvold as our director.

Our afternoons were spent however we wanted. God surely blessed us with

hot weather, so most of us spent a lot of time down at the beach. Each day a group of leaguers was able to go inner tubing on the Apple River, which was really a lot of fun. For some it was the first time for doing it, while others were pros at it. It surely was great. We also played a lot of volleyball, badminton and foosball. On Saturday we had our camp-staff softball game, plus a tug of war. That night we (as a staff) served the campers at a banquet at which Pastor Bruce Dalager, Mentor, Minn., spoke.

After our evening service each evening was our time of sharing testimonies and singing campfire songs, which was always a very special time for me, to see how God is working in the lives of other young people and to share the love we have with our Lord. I believe that just sitting around a campfire brings everyone a lot closer together in our Lord.

After this it was time to go to our dorms and get ready for our devotions, after which we all went to bed and tried to get a good night's rest, which wasn't always so easy to get. But the Lord worked everything out.

By the time Sunday came around we all had met so many new Christian friends and it was now time to say goodbye. But we know that some day we will all be together again, all because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank You, Jesus.

I Timothy 4:12: "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourselves as an example of those who believe."

In the elections which took place in the business meeting, Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak., was elected president to replace Rev. Dale Mellgren, who had served for four years. Mr. Jon Strand was re-elected first vice-president and Mr. Brad Sorenson was elected vice-president from the West Coast. Re-elected secretary was Miss Robbin Thompson, while Mr. Allen Arneson was chosen treasurer. The Devotional Life Secretary for the next two years

will be Mr. Randy Moe. A new office was created, that of special advisor, and Mr. Jerry Moan was named to that.

The nominating committee for 1983 will be Mike Pelkie, Lloyd Quanbeck and Pastor Paul Nash.

Robbin Thompson  
Secretary, LLF

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### WMF Convention ...

Mission churches this summer, sang two songs: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" and "Trust and Obey."

Our offering for the evening was for AFLC schools and amounted to \$3,684.05. Pastor and Mrs. Richard Snipstead favored us with a vocal duet, "A Name I Highly Treasure."

Pastor Kenneth Moland, Dean of the Bible school, was the evening speaker. He thanked the ladies for their generous support of the schools down through the years. He based his message on II Cor. 4:3-15. What is our treasure? It is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is the promise of the indwelling Christ, taking up residence in our hearts and lives. It should allow us to turn our eyes upon Jesus. How do we get that treasure? Not by a treasure hunt! There is none that seeks after God. God has brought His treasure to us and places it in repentant and believing hearts. The priceless Treasure is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. What does the Treasure do? This Treasure is a transforming light. The darkness is dispelled by the Light of Jesus. When the Light is indwelling us it is a sustaining light. The Light, or Treasure, is a spreading treasure. It is not just for us, but for others whom we must spread it to. On the basis of God's Word we can be sure it is here transforming us, sustaining us and multiplying the treasure.

Pastor Snipstead dismissed us with the benediction. We left with a desire to serve Christ, *Our Treasure*, sharing Him with others.

Mrs. Kenneth L. Anderson  
Secretary

## NO AMBASSADOR AUGUST 18

As is our custom, there will be no *Ambassador* published on August 18 (second issue in August). The next issue will be dated September 1.

God be with you until we meet again in these pages at that time.

## 1983 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

According to the action of the Annual Conference in June, the 1983 Annual Conference of the AFLC will be held in Dickinson, N. Dak., June 15-20. The conference decision was to begin the conference on the third Wednesday of the month rather than on the second.

## In Memoriam

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

### MONTANA

#### Culbertson

Kinley E. Bolstad, 80, July 13, Bethel

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn

# Thy Kingdom Come

"For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food" (Heb. 5:12).

A Christian who always remains in his spiritual childhood has ceased to grow.

If we do not develop a taste for something different from what the Word here calls "milk," our inner man will stop growing. But we must not misunderstand what is said about "milk." To grow from infant food to solid food does not mean to lose our childlike faith, or to quit living with God as we did at first. The way to trained attitudes is just to continue to live in a childlike re-

lation to God. As we received Jesus, in that manner must we continue in Him. He who grows away from hatred for sin, from the prayer chamber, and from need for grace, he stops his own Christian development.

Neither is a taste for solid food the same as having memorized the Bible and understanding all Christian doctrines. It is to have spiritual wisdom and clearness of vision so that we can distinguish between genuine Christianity and that which claims to be Christian but is not. It is to be rooted in love so we "know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge."

Here the Word distinguishes between knowledge about God and being acquainted with God. We Christians of today know much about Christ: may

## SOLID FOOD

we also be intimately acquainted with Him! Then we would make sound Christian growth and be tried in the Word of righteousness.

Then we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

Take my soul, thy full salvation;  
Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;  
Joy to find in every station,  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within  
thee,  
What a Father's smile is thine,  
What a Savior died to win thee;  
Child of heaven, shouldst thou  
repine?

Reprinted from *Thy Kingdom  
Come*, by Ludvig Hope  
Augsburg Publishing House