


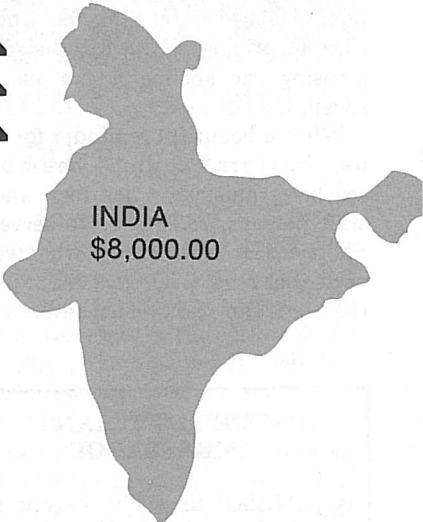
THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

February 19, 1980

AFLC WORLD CHALLENGE IN 1980

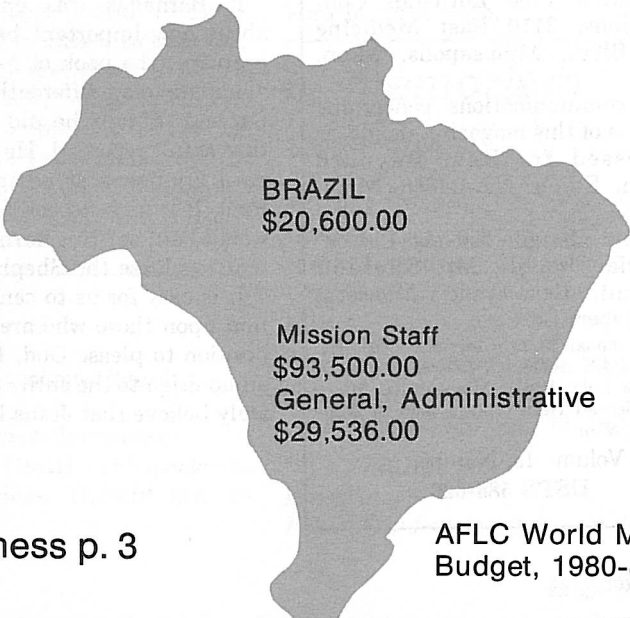


MEXICO
\$4,000.00



INDIA
\$8,000.00

*"Pray
ye
therefore . . . "*



BRAZIL
\$20,600.00

Mission Staff
\$93,500.00
General, Administrative
\$29,536.00

Evangelism is Every Christian's Business p. 3
A Visit to Brazil p. 5

AFLC World Mission
Budget, 1980-81

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Gary Skramstad



Pleasing the Shepherd

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

A number of our AFLC pastors had the privilege of gathering for the annual Pastor's Conference at Osceola, Wisconsin. What a joyful and refreshing experience! We were so well taken care of and we called upon Bob and Carol Dietsche and staff to receive applause, showing our thanks. Bob, in turn, mentioned that it was their joy in pleasing the shepherd, not just the sheep.

What a beautiful reminder for all of us. Pastors, council members, teachers, musicians, janitors, and all staff persons, remember to serve the Shepherd. It is not always what we say or do that reveals our concern to please the Lord. Our reaction to life situations

is really the test. It is there where we must evaluate our motives. There is one special story in the New Testament that God has used to check me in this area of pleasing self, men, or God.

In Acts 9:27, we find Barnabas taking the much-feared Saul to the apostles. He persuaded them that Saul was indeed converted and that he should be received into Christian fellowship. Their friendship grew even though Paul had to escape to his home at Tarsus. When the Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch to help teach and establish the church there we again find Barnabas being used of God to bring Paul into an active ministry. Barnabas went to Tarsus and brought him to Antioch for the great task before them (Acts 11:25). After the work in Antioch became established, Barnabas and Saul were set apart as the men chosen by God to become the first missionaries. It was on that first journey to Cyprus that God empowered Paul to deal with Elymas, the sorcerer. In Acts 13:13, we now read about Paul and his company. Up to this passage we read about Barnabas and Paul.

If Barnabas was only concerned about how important he appeared to everyone, the book of Acts would undoubtedly read differently from here to the end. Maybe he did have feelings that aren't recorded. He would have a good argument or complaint against Paul. If it hadn't been for him, where would Paul be? But Barnabas was content to please the Shepherd.

It is easy for us to center our attention upon those who are called into a position to please God. But this is an admonition to the entire church. If you truly believe that Jesus has died to be

your Savior, you are a part of the true Church of our Lord. Hence the word to you is that in "whatsoever You do, do it heartily, as to the Lord." If the individual members of the church took this passage to heart, what a difference there would be in our lives, our congregations, and our communities.

May God help us to have ears to hear what His Spirit is saying to us. May we become a people who continually contemplate the motives for our actions. May we become so sensitive to the Spirit that we are crushed with shame when we knowingly ignore His leading in our lives. We are so prone to take the glory that is due God and credit it to our accounts. Let us remember to do all to God's glory.

There is nothing wrong with our giving thanks to one another. There even is the ministry of encouragement with which we should become involved. Paul oftentimes thanked God for people and encouraged them along the way. But let us remember that we are tools in the Lord's hands. He is the power. All praise is for His Name!

There are a few questions that can help us determine whom we are trying to please. Will we sing, speak, etc., only for certain groups or size of groups? Will we share our talents only when we are given an honorarium? Will we serve in a position only if we can have our way of doing things? Are we willing to let others and/or God receive the glory for something that we thought of or did?

As we meditate on this verse, may we be renewed in our hearts to serve Christ with willing hearts that would please the Great Shepherd. ☩

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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“Evangelism is simply: ‘one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.’ ”

Rev. Dale R. Battleson, ALC
Rapid City, South Dakota

Read: John 1:43-51

We are a church under orders!

Jesus gave the command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” We are Ambassadors for Christ representing the Kingdom of God to all mankind. Evangelism involves being known by Christ, getting to know Christ, and making Christ known. Evangelism is simply: “one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.” We who have been blessed in feeding our starving souls on Christ, the Bread of Life, whereby we have found deep satisfaction and strength, are compelled by His Command to ‘tell other beggars where to find bread’ because we ourselves are ‘beggars’ in constant need of His saving grace.

Evangelism is every Christian’s business!

A condemned prisoner said to a visiting minister: “Do you really believe what you say, Chaplain? If I believed your Gospel were true, I would crawl across England on broken glass to tell men about it.” If we Christians believe the Gospel to be true, then we must be ambassadors for Christ and tell the lost and lonely, the sick and suffering, the troubled and poor—where to find bread! Jesus did not command us to be “soul-winners.” He said we were to be “witnesses” telling it like it is in our own lives. The Holy Spirit can and does work through our Christian witness to convert and save souls. Evangelism, personal evangelism, is the “one to one,” “person to person” witness of what Jesus Christ can do in our lives.

Consider the call of a challenging Christ!

In both the Old and New Testaments, the call to salvation is given. It is given because, “God desires all men to be saved” (I Timothy 2:4). Jesus said to numerous people, “Come, follow Me.” Philip and Andrew had found the Christ. At the Master’s invitation, “Follow Me,” they immediately became personal workers and witnessed to Simon Peter and Nathanael of the “grace of God.” Have you heard the call of Christ to salvation? One cannot share with others something he himself does not have.

Have the heart of a compassionate Christian!

One cannot do personal work for God whose heart is cold and calloused toward others. Love and compassion seem to be the “missing ingredient” in our world today. Is our love “alive enough” and “warm enough” and “broad enough” and “sincere enough” to reach out to others in Jesus’ name? When Philip and Andrew found the Christ, they also found the “power of Christ” to love others. There must have been a *burning compassion* in their hearts, a deep desire for others to experience the salvation of Jesus

Christ. Their prayer must have been: Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, And love that soul through me; And may I humbly do my part, To win that soul to Thee.

I hope that is your prayer today. May God give you a “burning heart” for the souls of men.

Dare to deal with the criticisms of condemning doubters!

The mind of Nathanael was full of doubts about the Savior of whom Philip had told him. Critically and sneeringly, he said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael was a skeptic, forever asking questions and doubting doctrines. The Christian worker must learn how to deal with such individuals as skeptics, agnostics, intellectuals, infidels, atheists and other kinds of people. We must not assume that everyone will easily accept the Gospel. *We must meet people where they are*, as Jesus did. We must dare to deal with the critics of Christianity in a spirit of love, understanding, acceptance and compassion. Our task is not to argue and debate, but only to “witness” of the love of God in Christ. We leave the work of conversion and awakening to the Holy Spirit.

EVANGELISM IS EVERY CHRISTIAN’S BUSINESS



The five American missionary ladies present at the retreat were, left to right: Karen dos Santos, Janet Abel, Helen Knapp, Cindy Alpert and Carolyn Dyrud.



Some of the ladies at the 10th Annual Ladies Retreat

Take time to be holy 10th Annual Ladies Retreat

EVANGELISM . . .

Pray for the
courage of a
persistent disciple!

It's never easy to "talk religion" to members of your family or to close friends, not even to strangers. Even as a pastor, I get scared sometimes. I've had people "tell me off" with words too vulgar to repeat. I've had people tell me "it was none of my business what they believed, or didn't believe." Believe me, the temptation is mighty strong to remain silent. But isn't that the easy way out, the cowardly thing to do? When you read the Bible, you read of those who were not ashamed or afraid in making it known that they were God's men and women.

Philip was a persistent disciple of Christ. He didn't walk away when Nathanael declared, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" How easy it is to drop the subject or get side-tracked when the conversation gets "too deep" or "too challenging." But, that's when we need to *lean on the Holy Spirit* for guidance, wisdom and courage. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Pray for courage when the going gets

rough. God will guide your thinking and take control of your tongue.

Praise God for the
conversion of a
sinner saved
by grace!

We read in Luke 15:7, "I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." There are blessings in doing personal evangelism. To lead a soul to Christ cannot be described in words, the joy and peace within. Philip's heart must have been "bubbling over" with joy when he heard Nathanael make his confession of Christ, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" The whole world is blessed when a soul finds God. The whole church is blessed and enriched when a church member finds salvation in Christ. I hope we can rejoice when a church member finds salvation in Christ. I hope we can rejoice with all of heaven when lost sinners find "new life" in Christ. We are "Saved to Serve." That's why *evangelism is every Christian's business!* We are ambassadors of the Most High King, Jesus Christ. Amen. †

Speakers during the various sessions were: Helen Knapp, Rondonia, Karen dos Santos, Campo Mourao, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rocha, Altonia, Pastor Yeddo Gottel, Campo Mourao, and Niar Feverane, Sao Paulo. Ideas shared were organizing your day so there is time for God, spiritual matters and your family.

The Lord blessed our three-day retreat with beautiful weather so that many ladies were able to attend. There were over 30 ladies registered with many more dropping in and out during various sessions. The retreat closed with prayer and the song, "God be with you till we meet again."

THE WONDER OF GOD'S LOVE

God is love which is everlasting
And He wants to take us by the hand,
Until we reach the place He has prepared—
Our Heavenly Home in the Promised Land.

There is something for us all to do,
Planned according to the Father's will—

It may seem small in another's eye,
But everyone has a place to fill.

The secret is when He shows the way;
The love of Jesus shines for you and me;

He gives the promise, and wisdom, too—

And where He leads is the place to be.

Laura Norum
Golden Age Manor
Amery, Wis.

A VISIT TO BRAZIL

Staff children and friends

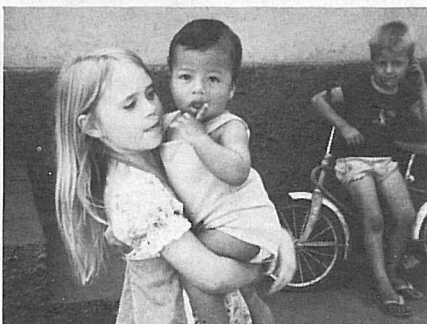
"Let the children come to Me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

My time on the mission field is over. Since I was called to Brazil to teach children, it is only proper that I include them as I write about my stay there. I believe that the Lord blessed my stay. I've had many interesting and blessed experiences. I've learned how to live through several days without electricity and lots of other everyday conveniences we sometimes take for granted. I've attended cabocalo (hillbilly) weddings in the Interior. It was an experience to cope during the winter season without central heating—only alcohol in an oatmeal can to heat up the bathroom. As a school teacher I realize one can make do with a limited amount of school supplies. I've learned a little Portuguese and also am aware that a smile can say more than many words. Most of all, my eyes have been opened to the tremendous work God has and is doing in Brazil. The people are just great! My heart really hurts because so many of them do not know the Giver of Life.

I'd like you to meet the children on our Institute campus. First, meet the Dyrud children. Their parents are Connely and Carolyn, who have been missionaries in Brazil for ten years. Shannon was only a baby when they came to Brazil and now besides Shannon there are also Christy, Vickie and Chester.

Secrets disclosed by Shannon. Shannon is our 11-year-old fifth grader at Campo Mourao. She is just old enough to attend the weekly Saturday evening youth meetings (mocidade). This is a time for the young people to get together for singing, prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Shannon is busy during the day. She attends school, helps around the house and feeds the pets, among which are a moneky, a parrot and several bunnies. She likes to play the guitar, to sing and also to bake.

Shannon says that a missionary is a person who goes to other countries to tell the people there about God. Her favorite Bible verse is "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).



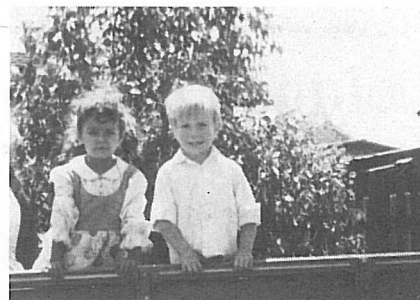
Christy doing her favorite thing: holding Fernando

Comments coming from Christy. Christy is eight years old and a busy third grader. Christy has a lot of things she likes to do but her favorite thing is to hold Fernando. She also likes to play, ride bike and finger paint. Christy enjoys Kids' Camp which is held during the summer. At camp you can swim and play but most important of all is that you learn about Jesus. Christy says that a missionary is a Christian who helps others to be Christians. Her favorite Bible verse is "Don't hide your light."

Views of Vickie. Vickie is six years old and is in kindergarten. She attends English school in the mornings and Brazilian school in the afternoons. The name of her Brazilian school is "Chap-



Shannon, Fernando, Vickie and Magna



Chester and a friend hitching a ride home from church in a truck bed

euzinho Vermelho" which means Little Red Riding Hood. She says that if you ever come to Brazil you have to try rice and beans because that is her favorite food. Other favorites of hers include riding horse, going to town and listening to her daddy tell stories. Vickie has defined a missionary as someone who can be either a lady or a man. A missionary's main job is to show people things like dolls, the inside of their houses and books that have black, red, white and yellow pages (the wordless book). Her favorite Bible verse is "Be kind."

Chattering with Chester. For a four-year-old, Chester leads a very busy life. Since Chester attends school at Chap-euzinho Vermelho in the afternoons, he has to do all his work in the mornings. He says this work is very hard. Some of his work is to put oil on the bike and to help Pedro Simon, Samuel and Ildibrando in the field. His favorite thing to do is to play. His best friends are Vickie, Christy, Shannon, Mommy and Daddy. Chester says that when he grows up he wants to be a daddy. When asked about Sunday School activities, he says that you must be really quiet and listen to stories about Jesus and about a big black book on a shelf. What is a missionary? "My daddy, and he works and studies." †

—Cindy Alpert

(To be continued)

COMING NEXT TIME . . .

A special issue featuring Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. There will be a number of articles about our school for pastoral training. Pictures, too. Watch for it.

ALL AROUND US — HUMAN NEED

Each day as I listen to the news or read the paper, I am made aware of human need. The headlines report:

"Fire destroys apartment—leaves six families homeless."

"National unrest in _____ (country); casualties increase."

"Increase in wholesale costs forces rise in _____ prices."

"Energy costs schedule for _____ percent increase."

On and on the stories go, repeating the many human needs.

Human needs have been categorized in many ways. One very important research study in human needs was done by Dr. Abraham H. Maslow in a book titled *Motivation and Personality*. He listed seven prime areas where humans have needs.

Needs are:

Physical needs

Physical needs include the basics of human existence. Hunger, thirst, pain are prime examples.

Most Americans forget these basic needs until a crisis breaks into their routine. However, the individual adult may come to the Sunday School class preoccupied with some form of physical need. It could be discomfort from a physical ailment, exhaustion from working at two jobs, or simply an unsolved disease gripping the body.

Jesus Christ set an example for us. Note Matthew 25:42 and James 2:15, 16. Consider these passages and see how you, as a teacher, measure up to meeting the physical needs of your students.

Security needs

Security needs are considered after primal physical existence needs are met. Here is the need for order, discipline and dependability.

The individual's environment is of vital importance. The sense of job availability, the feeling of knowing what you're doing and why, and knowing someone is in control bring about the security needed for individual involvement in Sunday School.

Belongingness needs

It's so great to hear someone say, "I appreciate you and accept you for what you are." "Thanks for just being you."

Belonging is of ultimate worth for true Sunday School involvement. Human worth and self concepts are reinforced or torn down in direct proportion to how individuals view their acceptance in a group. The adult Sunday School class, also, must be an area where those who care show their affection.

Status needs

Each one of us desires to make his own mark. Status or esteem needs vary in individuals, but we all work for recognition in some form.

As a Sunday School teacher, you can derive great rapport as you remember this rule of thumb: the most important status symbol within each person is his name. When you call that person by name, whether he be a relative newcomer or one of your faithfuls, he feels an immediate status and sense of success.

The need to be one's best self

An interesting switch in priority takes place in this fifth stage. Here the emphasis shifts from how one relates to the world outside himself to how he relates to his own personhood.

We are seeing much written today about identity and self-worth. Adults *generally* feel that they've moved beyond questions: "Who am I?" "Where am I going?" "What is the purpose of my life in this world?"

However, the root issue of the need can often be traced directly to this area! When the lower needs are satisfied, we should be willing to call the above questions to our minds. Openness, mask removal, sharing, and in-depth personal awareness are requirements for complete "self-actualization."

Each Christian has been given a gift of ministry. It is vital that we allow for maturity and self-actualization that come through Holy Spirit empowerment.

"Spiritual needs underlie the whole of Christian education."

Knowledge needs

Curiosity leads adults and children into new learning experiences. The Sunday School is a fertile ground for acquiring spiritual truth. Knowledge needs drive people into Scripture. God's Word is more than stories. It is a guideline to all life.

Aesthetic needs

Beauty and order are all around us and yet some fail to see this need in individuals. Often this need is expressed with such words as: order, balance, symmetry, closure and completion.

This need, while it is listed here in order, may appear in many lower needs. A person's knowledge drive may lead him to put order in his life, or to dig deeper into the story of God's ultimate plan for Christians.

These needs all overlap and mesh to form personality within the individual member in your Sunday School class. This fact leads us to the ultimate need expressed in all individuals.

Spiritual needs

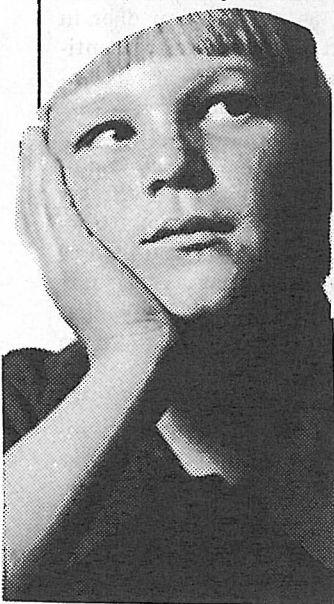
Spiritual needs underlie the whole of Christian education. As a teacher your awareness of these needs should be acute. But often we stress the spiritual need to the neglect of the others. We are challenged to minister at a physical, security, belonging, status need level and see our students grow to become their best in knowledge, aesthetic and spiritual levels. Move them up this staircase as true disciples maturing in Christ, held together against any need which arises. ✚

Judith B. Wold,
Executive Director
Parish Education, AFLC

John Eliot, Apostle to the Indians

Come, let us take a thought-journey back over 300 years. Can you do it? Of course, you can. You can think back thousands of years to the Flood, or to the Garden of Eden, for that matter. You can *think* back much farther than you can *remember*.

Let us imagine that we are about 18 miles southwest of Boston, on the Charles River, in the town with the Indian name, Natick. There seems to be something interesting going on in this little place, with woods around it. Look at the people coming together. Why—they are red men. Yes, they are Indians. Let us not be afraid of them. They are red, but they do not look fierce and wild. Now, see! A horseman is coming near. What a good face he has. He has come from Roxbury, we hear, where he has long been the pastor of a church. How kindly he greets the Indians. And now we hear what is to be done today. These Indians are to be formed into a church of their own. It is the minister, Rev. John Eliot, of Roxbury, who has gathered the red men together. Every two weeks he comes to preach to them. In ten years we find that there are 50 of these "Praying Indians," as they are called.



*"Prayer
and pains,
through
faith in
Jesus
Christ,
will do
anything."*

Surely we wish to know something about the good man who has done so much for these children of the forest, who were in our land when the Pilgrims came.

John Eliot was born in England in 1604. The father died before the son was very far along in his education, and he left eight pounds a year to be used, for eight years, in keeping his boy at Cambridge University. After finishing at Cambridge, John Eliot taught school. He became a minister of the Church of England when he was 27 years old, and soon after that came to America with three brothers and sisters. Miss Hannah Mumford, to whom he was engaged, came the next year, and they were married—the first marriage to be put down in the records of Roxbury, Massachusetts. For 60 years this good minister was settled over Roxbury church.

But his heart yearned over the Indians. He believed that they had souls to be saved, and he felt that he must tell them of the Saviour. It was not easy to win them at first, but the minister was so kind and friendly that by and by the red men became devoted to him. Across the country he went, once a fortnight, as you know, riding on horseback to preach to his Indians. One after another he formed more settlements of Praying Indians. He taught them other things besides the Bible. He showed them how to raise crops, to build bridges, to make houses and homes, and how to clothe themselves properly. He made them comfortable, and by getting help from others, he made it possible for them to work, and to live as did their civilized brothers.

The red men had a government of their own among themselves, and it was wonderful how well they got on. Mr. Eliot was 41 when he began to preach to them. In 14 years there were 3600 Praying Indians. The government set apart 6000 acres of land for them.

After preaching a while, and explaining the Word of God, Mr. Eliot thought that these people ought to have the Bible in their own language. A very queer language it was, and hard to



learn, but the good minister was not discouraged by that. He had the help of an Indian, taken captive in the Pequot War, in the work of translation. It was finished and printed in 1663, and was the very first Bible ever printed in America. Later, a revised version was printed at an expense of 900 pounds. Mr. Eliot gave towards this from his own small salary, the rest of the money coming from England. There are very few copies of this Indian Bible to be found now. One sold for 550 pounds a while ago in England. Some words had to be supplied; the Indians had no word for "salt," nor for "Amen."

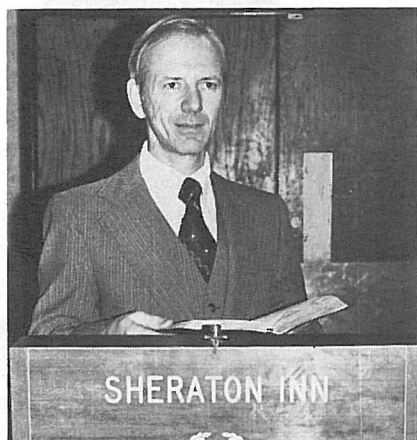
Three years after the first printing of the Bible the busy missionary printed the grammar for the Indians. At the end of it he wrote this sentence which has become historic everywhere: "Prayer and pains, through faith in Jesus Christ, will do anything." Do you not wish to stop right here, and say that over, until you know it by heart? Please do. It will help you.

There are only 14 or 15 copies of the first edition of this grammar now to be found.

Mr. Eliot had a salary of only 60 pounds for his work in Roxbury and 50 for his Indian work, but he was one of the most generous men that ever lived. One time the treasurer, on giving him the money then due, tied it up in a handkerchief to keep him from giving away any of it. Visiting a poor family on the way home, and wishing to help them, the minister found the knots too hard to untie, and gave the kerchief to the mother, saying, "God must have meant it *all* for you."

He died in 1690, at the age of 86, but is still unforgotten. †

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



Pastor Roy Warwick

Aberdeen, South Dakota, is the home of Grace Lutheran Church, the newest Home Mission endeavor of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Rev. Roy L. Warwick is the pastor of this congregation.

Where are we . . .

Aberdeen is located in the northeastern part of the state, 300 miles west of Minneapolis, Minn., and 100 miles south of Jamestown, N. Dak. The 1979 population of the city was 31,500, with a retail trade area of 130,000 people. The city has some large companies represented, namely, 3M, Control Data, Safeguard Industries, K. O. Lee Co. and the home office for Super 8 Motors. Agriculture is the chief industry.

Northern State College is located in Aberdeen, which is a four-year liberal arts college and is highly recommended to those in the Association churches thinking about college. Aberdeen is also the home of Presentation College, a two-year college for nursing and other health care training. The South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped provides education from first grade through high school, for those with impaired vision. This city is also noted for the Adjustment Training Center which specializes in helping to train mentally retarded individuals with the hope that they can become self-supporting in the future.

Aberdeen has two hospitals, having a combined total of 327 beds, seven clinics and four nursing homes, with a combined total of 339 beds. If there are those in the Association churches with health care training, and are interested in relocation, Aberdeen is a good place to work.

Who are we . . .

Grace Lutheran Church held its first meeting July 1, 1979, in Melgaard Park of Aberdeen, with a service, business meeting and pot-luck picnic dinner. There were 37 in attendance, including a number of visitors. The name of the church was chosen at that time and a secretary and treasurer were elected. It was decided to hold services at the Sheraton Inn until permanent property could be purchased.

The Sheraton Inn has been most gracious in providing its facilities for our use. We have the use of one of the conference rooms for our morning worship and also our Sunday School. In November, we held a Fall Coffee Hour at which Pastor Eldon Nelson spoke and a musical group from Tabor Lutheran of Webster sang. In December, the Sunday School and church presented a Christmas program, which 53 people attended. Our average attendance for worship in December was 32. And since we began on July 1 of last year, four new families have begun attending regularly. There are two home Bible studies being conducted for couples and one ladies' Bible study; also, a choir was recently formed. The pastor has monthly Bible studies in two of the nursing homes and, beginning the first of February, will conduct a morning Bible study at a nursing home each week.

The congregation has approved a constitution and has submitted the same with an official application for affiliation with the AFLC. We look with anticipation to formal membership.

INTRODUCING Grace Lutheran of Aberdeen

God is gracious . . .

Our family is very grateful to God for leading us into the fellowship of the AFLC for we have sensed God's direction, even to the purchasing of a comfortable home in Aberdeen, enabling our children to remain in the same school district as they were in previously. The "pieces" have "fallen into place," as though it were all previously planned. We have been very impressed with the great leadership we have observed in the AFLC and the personal caring and encouragement you have been to us.

Grace Lutheran Congregation is grateful to all the churches and groups in the Association that have contributed so generously to support the work in Aberdeen. The Lord will bless you in return for your generosity. The Lord has given to us a wide-open door in Aberdeen and we look with great anticipation to see what He will accomplish through Grace Lutheran as we enter the open door.

The city of Aberdeen, though a progressive city, has a spot on its character, with its many cesspools of attractions and its high alcohol and divorce rate. May God grant that we can share the Gospel of Christ in this city, that souls may find transforming power in Christ our Lord. †

R.L.W.

(Ed. note: Pastor Eldon Nelson informs me as this goes to press that the love offering for the work at Aberdeen, before it could be placed on the Home Mission budget, amounts to \$25,771.34 to date. A truly wonderful offering.)

editorials

GROWING RECOGNITION

Sydney J. Harris wrote a newspaper column recently which, in our paper, carried the title, "Our Real Problem is Moral." Actually, the column was prompted by the question of a reader about the energy crisis. Someone wanted to know what he thought about that crisis and proposed as a solution.

From there Mr. Harris waxed philosophical, rightly concluding that also in regard to what seem to be technical enigmas the problem is basically moral. Now that is a profound realization and it is good to see that there is a growing recognition of this fact.

Of course, this is not something new to those of us deeply involved in the work of Christian churches and who are familiar with what the Bible teaches. Nor are we suggesting that Mr. Harris hasn't been aware of this for we don't know his religious background or persuasion.

Name any of the problems besetting the human race to-

day and you will find that they are based on moral problems: energy, pollution, crime, marriage relations, government waste and oppression, equal rights. Really, we prefer to speak of the *sin* which underlies them. Not everyone is comfortable with the use of that word yet, but the use of the word "moral" is a step in the right direction in pinpointing the issue. And perhaps the day will come when the majority of people will acknowledge that man's problems are caused by sin, that is, the fracture of God's moral law. That law is *never* transgressed without injury to the transgressor. We believe that only through Jesus Christ is the guilt incurred by breaking God's law removed.

Mr. Harris is correct when he finishes his column by stating that the key questions are knowing *who* we are and *what* we are supposed to do. Don't you see that it is only we who have the Christian Gospel who have the answers and who can show the way? And then if that is so, we had better be up and doing and have new resolve to evangelize the world in our time.

Furthermore, let all who bear the name of Jesus Christ live and move in this world as people who know *who* they are and are sure of their *purpose*. By all means, this doesn't mean that one goes about with an air of holy superiority, but rather with a quiet resoluteness, not "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine." And over all there should be the humility shaped from fellowship with the One who did not come to be ministered unto, but to minister unto others, even to the extremity of self-sacrifice.

Yes, our real problem is moral. As more and more people recognize that there is more hope for us as a nation. †

Director of Development of the AFLC



Mr. Ernest Miedema

145 N. E. 12th St.

Valley City, N. Dak. 58072

Telephone: (701) 844-1418 (H)

845-2732 (O)

Counsellor in will, estate and gift annuity planning. He is available for assistance in the above areas. Employed by the AFLC.

Family Bible camps planned for July, August

Two 18th annual Family Bible Camps have been set for this summer. The first will be at Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., July 21-27. The second will be at AFLC Center, Osceola, Wis., August to .

Program details about these camps will be given later. Plan now to attend one of them.

HOME WANTED

A semi-retired AFLC pastor is interested in settling this coming spring in a midwest community where there is an AFLC church.

Would be interested in buying or renting a three-bedroom home, preferably an older home.

Please contact:

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

1548 Patagonia Road

Nogales, Ariz. 85621

Telephone: 602-287-6353 †

SCHEDULE THE 18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN YOUR SUMMER PLANS. JUNE 11-15, AT VALLEY CITY, N. DAK.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

A tribute

It is late at night but my mind can't rest until I do what I should have done weeks ago, that is, to praise the Lord for another victory in the homegoing of one of His rare jewels, Arne Aanestad. You say, Arne A., what did he do? He was so quiet, etc. That is so true because, you see, that's the way Arne wanted you to think, not of him but of the Lord and others.

I don't believe I realized this until his beautiful funeral at St. Paul's Church in Fargo (N. Dak.). Neither my husband nor I go to funerals just because we know people. I dread funerals and only go if I am needed or it is close friends or family. And I still have a hard time sitting around a table after a funeral talking and visiting. But this funeral was so different. I wanted to laugh and sing, because it seemed to me a real victory. I'll try to explain what I mean.

When we first moved to Fargo and lived across the street from St. Paul's, I got to know a side of Arne that was left out of that beautiful funeral because I didn't know about his homegoing in time. Anyway, one day Arne said to me very quietly, as he always spoke in the house of God, "Say, Dorothy, if you will arrange for the flowers, I'll buy them or you pick them out and I'll pay for them." So we did some of that and, too, he always saw that the church was decorated with live palms on Palm

Sunday. He never talked about his many unselfish deeds.

Then, too, some Sundays we would invite him to our rented home for dinner. Sometimes he'd say, "Not this time; I have a date with a couple of ladies" (these being elderly, lonely ladies whom he was going to take out to dinner). Or he'd made a batch of lefse to take to someone. This, too, never made the headlines. I could go on and on and still miss a lot he did quietly only to please the Lord.

I'd like to mention this also that when Arne prayed he never seemed to care if those around him heard; *he* was talking to his Lord. His interest in missions would fill a book, I think. I am sure that others could write more about that. Arne could have had many beautiful things here on this earth, but he chose the better part and sent most of it on ahead.

Even though I felt like shedding a tear when I read my Christmas card list—no Arne this Christmas—I instead said that he is far happier now there with the Jesus we have just celebrated about here on earth. May the Lord bless all our memories of His faithful servant, Arne Aanestad. And we pray that our lives will leave just such a challenge when God calls us home. †

Arnold and Dorothy Jodock
Hatton, N. Dak.

I gave again

Our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, have been wonderfully good to us this past year. We have freedom of religion, freedom to express ourselves, good homes, plenty to eat and good clothes. Isn't it great!

Before Christmas we had an offering for our Schools at Medicine Lake. When I came home and I was reading the *Ambassador*, I came across what Pastor Trygve Dahle wrote and I said to my wife, "I don't think we gave enough." Then I read the poem, "Why?," that Helen Swenson had sent in and the Christmas greetings from our president, Rev. Richard Snipstead. Then it came to my mind. Why should we have to beg for extra help? We should all know that it takes more under present inflation to run the Schools and Missions and all other obligations and we should be more willing to give more. Give more to get out of debt and to help train more students to go out to spread the good news about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

So I thought I'd try this \$100 again. Why don't we all take a little more out of our savings and give to our Association. Maybe not all can give a hundred, but maybe ten and the ones who could bring in a nice little sum to get caught up on. Now this is a little extra besides what we have given before. Please think it over, friends, and I think it will work. †

Oscar Raaen
Erskine, Minn.

AFTER COMMUNION

The solemn hour is at an end.
The holy rites are done;
We leave Thy temple, Lord, but oh,
Go with us every one.
Dear Master, let us walk with Thee.
We dare not walk alone,
So full of danger is the world,

So far away our home.
Oh, let us lean upon Thy love,
And trust Thy saving grace,
Until we reach the journey's end
And see Thee face to face.
C. A. Wendell

Ten commandments for living with people

1. Speak to people. Nothing is so nice as a cheerful greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest sound is one's own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you want friends, be a friend.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act in such a way as to demonstrate that everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. Just try, and you can like almost everyone.
7. Be generous in praise. And be courteous with criticism.
8. Be considerate of others. There are often three sides to a controversy: yours, his, and the right side.
9. Be alert to give help. What we do for others' lives is immortal.
10. Add to all this a good sense of humor, loads of patience, and a dash of humility and you will be rewarded manyfold. †

—Dalton, Minn.
Parish Newsletter

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

A great surprise on New Year's eve

The telephone is ringing. Hello! Will you be home this evening? Yes. Good. We will be over to see you in a half hour or so. Wonderful, we will be delighted to see you.

It was a young couple. I had confirmed the husband and married them ten years ago. Now they had driven 60 miles to see me on New Year's Eve. What can it be that is so urgent? They had their two sweet children along, Brian, 6, and Risha, 4.

We talked about many things and finally Rosa, the mother, said, "We came here to ask you to baptize me and the children." "How come you want to be baptized, Rosa; are you saved now? I know you were not a Christian when you married Steven ten years ago." "No, that's true; I was not a Christian then but I am now." "How did that happen?" "Well, I tell you, our lives were so empty. We were going to churches seeking and seeking. The more churches we went to the more confused we became. Then, finally, to make a long story short, our boy got so old that we could send him to school. We sent him to a Christian school and he had to learn Bible verses every day by heart, mind you. I helped him with that all the time and learned the Bible verses he learned. God's Word is living and powerful and the sixth of October this year, as I was helping my boy, all of a sudden a flash of divine light came

into my darkened heart through a Bible verse which convinced me that I was saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. I saw salvation was a gift, and both faith and salvation came to me through the reading of the Word. And now I want to be baptized together with my children so we can have a Christian family."

What a wonder of God's grace! When he could not use the churches, he used that little six-year old boy as His instrument. Glory to His name!

"But as far as the place is concerned, don't you think it would be better that you went to our church in Eugene where Steven was confirmed and you were married?" "No, we want you to baptize us right here in your home tonight." Since they insisted on that, I could not refuse. "Well, then, I will write out the certificates and have the pastor there put the church seal on them and enter your names on the church roll." "Yes, you can do that." "I know you live far out in the country past Junction City, but in spite of that long distance I am sure you will attend the church as often as you can. We will come and see you and be sure to come and see us when you are this way. Take this word with you: 'Fear not, for I have created you, I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine'" (Isa. 43:1). †

Pastor Lars Stalsbroten
Woodburn, Ore.

Give the opportunity

We read with interest the articles on evangelism. Some good thoughts were brought out. When I recall meetings from years ago, time was allowed for testimonies before the meetings and much that was said made an impression on some of the hearers. Actually, I remember, in our congregation at Derick, we had testimonies some Sunday mornings, especially if new folks joined the congregation. That gave them the opportunity to share what the Lord had done for them.

Also another thing which seems long forgotten is the altar call. This, to my thinking, brought the people to a point of decision. How many meetings we have attended where many came to the Lord and continued growing in Him. The need to be like Joshua, "Choose you this day whom you will serve," needs to go forth with boldness, knowing in whom we have believed. The Holy Spirit will do the work in the heart that is prepared.

Some members of our family belong to a church where many Sunday mornings people come to the Lord. What a challenge is ours today to help bring in the harvest before the Lord returns. May He find us looking, and occupying until He comes. †

Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Da.,

YOUTH

The Church's One Foundation

"Let all things be done for edification" (I Cor. 14:26c).

"The Church's one foundation, is
Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, by water
and the Word:

From heav'n He came and sought
her to be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died."

"The Church's one foundation is
Jesus Christ her Lord." For us, that is
really something to think about. Not
too long ago a few of the local Luther
Leagues came here to AFLBS campus

for a youth rally. Two of us sat down
and thought about what the real pur-
pose of the Luther League was to be.

We would like to share our thoughts
with you as Luther Leaguers so that
you can receive encouragement as to
the real reason why the Luther League
has been developed.

Some day the Luther Leaguers in
our churches will become the leaders of
the church. It is important to be
trained early in our lives to lead the
church of God. However, we also see
that the Luther League is to be made
up of people who are to edify God's
church. "Let all things be done for edi-

fication." As leaguers we have much to
do and by being alive and serving the
God of all, we become a big part of the
family of God. III John 4 says, "I have
no greater joy than this, to hear of my
children walking in the truth."

What a joy to know that God is
proud of each one of us who are build-
ing up His church! We need to contin-
ue to lift up our brothers and sisters in
Christ by our actions and words and to
pray for those who are leading our
churches today. †

Keith Kinneberg
Anders Macy
AFLBS

Norwegian language hymns recorded in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS (Special) Mike and
Elseegian folksingers from
Minneapolis, Minn., are featured on a
new release on the Skandisk label en-
titled "Norwegian Songs of Praise"
(SK 2517). Their three earlier record-
ings of Norwegian folksongs and Nor-
wegian Christmas favorites have en-
joyed popularity during this time of
renewed ethnic awareness. This new
album presents 14 Norwegian language
hymns covering a wide spectrum of
Norwegian church music, accompan-
ied by strings, keyboards and brass.

For both Mike and Else the musical
selections on this recording represent a
return to their roots. Although they
grew up thousands of miles apart,
Mike in Willmar, Minn., and Else in
Kristiansand, Norway, several of these
tunes have been their favorites since
childhood. A few of the songs are
known only in Norway. Others, which
were popular during the immigration
era, are now even unfamiliar to Nor-
way's younger generation.

Because the entire recording is sung
in Norwegian, except for two verses, a
booklet with English translations ac-
companies each record. Since most of

their following are not fluent in the
language, the translation insert ena-
bles second and third generation Nor-
wegian-Americans to better appreciate
the music of their forefathers. Some of
the tunes which Americans might rec-
ognize are: "What a Friend We Have
In Jesus," "In Heaven Above," "Day
By Day," "Behold the Host, Arrayed
in White" ("Den Store Hvite Flokk" in
Norwegian), and a favorite in many
lands, "How Great Thou Art."

The simple religious folktunes are
backed by an accordion, bass and gui-
tar ensemble, while the "high church"
selections are accompanied by brass or
string quartets, organ or piano. Arlin
Snesrud, a professional music copyist
from St. Paul, wrote all the arrange-
ments, and also plays bass, trombones
and keyboard.

Most record stores and Scandina-
vian gift shops will soon have this rec-
ord in stock. Or it can be ordered
directly from Skandisk, 3424 19th Ave.
S. The cost is \$7.95 postpaid for one
record (Minnesota residents add 4%
sales tax) or \$14.50 for two.



Life on the Edge of Town



The Quiet Season

When you read this we may be experiencing the first glimmerings of approaching spring, but today, the 28th of January, we are locked in the grip of winter. In fact we are in our longest cold spell of the winter.

All in all, the winter hasn't been bad, no major storms, much warmer temperatures than last year. Then we had the unusual display of frost beauty around Christmas and New Year's, about which I wrote last time. But now people tell me that this means a lot of rainy weather six months from then.

Right now, at January's end, we are in the quiet season. Not this very day here in Newfolden, really, because the snowmobile racers are going through town on their way from Winnipeg to St. Paul, heading for the first night's stop in Thief River Falls. I haven't been over to see them wend their lonely way through, but I take my hat off to them. They have a job to do, even as I have here on the edge of town.

Otherwise things are quiet. Snow covers the ground in modest cloak. No moose has shown up yet this winter, but I keep an eye out for tracks as I ski around the property.

Look Toward Africa

What have been your contacts with Africa? Your thoughts about it? Those of us in middle age and beyond grew up associating it all too often with the name "dark continent."

As a boy I followed with horror the subjugation of Ethiopia by the Italian

army. In much more recent times we have all watched with pain the struggles among brothers in the Congo and Rhodesia. We have heard from here and there of nations being born, of nations in the agony of birth, of racial conflicts. Also from Africa we have learned of drought and starvation, of a Sahara Desert inching its way southward.

And we have thought of Africa in connection with Christian missions. The great names: Livingstone, Moffat, Mackay, Crowther. Among Lutherans, certain countries come to mind: Cameroon, Sudan, Tanganyika, South Africa, Ethiopia. Lands where spiritual descendants of Luther have gone forth with Christ's Gospel.

But now Africa is taking on a much more personal meaning for me. In January a nephew, Pastor Timothy Raynard Stommen, his wife Dawn and their little daughters Alexi and Siri Anna left for Tanzania and a five-year stay. A third child will join the family in March at Moshi at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Tim will serve as pastor of the English-speaking church in Dar Es Salaam and have other duties, including teaching boys in the Swahili language. Even though I'm only an uncle, I have a little better feeling now of what parents feel when they send missionary children out.

In the next country north, Kenya, are Bjarne and Magny Taranger and their four children. North of there, in Ethiopia, is Reidun, Bjarne's sister, a nurse. Bjarne and Reidun are the

children of one of my cousins in Norway (now deceased). I met them in Norway and they are on my mission prayer list, too.

As I say, Africa has taken on personal interest for me lately.

Opsethiana

During Christmas and January I read again some selections from old *Christmas Echoes*, published by the former Lutheran Free Church. There was a lot of excellent material in those publications.

One article, from the 1951 issue, was a story about the late Prof. Henry P. Opseth, who directed musical groups at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, for many years. It was written by his colleague and successor, now retired, Leland B. Sateren.

One humorous incident related out of many was from a visit of the Men's Glee Club to his hometown of Canby, Minn. Normally the second basses stood at the left of the semi-circular formation, the first basses on the right. In the opening number of the concert the second basses were to sing in full-throated attack.

Somehow, accidentally, the Glee Club members had taken their places in exactly the opposite order of what they should have, unnoticed by Prof. Opseth. When he turned to his left to signal the attack by the second basses, following the stirring piano introduction, he was amazed to hear the sound coming from behind him. Confused, and still not realizing what was happening, he then turned to his right to direct the first basses in their antiphonal response to the second basses. Again he was dumbfounded to hear the singing coming from the opposite direction, from behind him.

Fortunately, wrote Prof. Sateren, there were no more antiphonal passages in the selection and that was all to the good because Prof. Opseth still had not caught on and his commands had been reduced to "extremely general character." Later on he could appreciate the humor of the situation, but not then.

Prof. Opseth died on Christmas Day, 1950, at a relatively early age, a much loved man. †

—Raynard Huglen



A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



Annual pastor's retreat held at Osceola

The annual retreat for Association of Free Lutheran Congregation pastors was held this year at the newly acquired air base property southeast of Osceola, Wis., Jan. 15-17.

The retreat began with a service of holy communion on Tuesday night. Church president Rev. Richard Snipstead officiated and the meditation was brought by Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.

Guest lecturer was Dr. N. S. Tjernagel, Rochester, N. Y., theological professor and former editor of *Lutheran Sentinel* (Evangelical Lutheran Synod), who gave three lectures on the *Augsburg Confession* and Luther's *Small Catechism*.

Rev. Maynard Force, Minneapolis, Minn., retired pastor and Bible teacher, presented two studies, one each day, on prayer and the Word. He had been the Bible teacher a year ago and was brought back by popular demand.

Ministry to men was discussed by Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn., in two lectures and Rev. Francis Monseth of the schools' faculty considered the topic, "Why the AFLC?", in the retreat's final session.

The banquet was served at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening. Rev. Robert L. Lee, also of the Schools, gave the address, speaking of future projections for our world and the Christian response to them. That fit in well as prelude to the two films which were then shown about the Houston Colloquium on the Church in Future Society, which was attended by eight men from the AFLC last winter. That colloquium was sponsored by the Lutheran Brotherhood insurance society.

The registration fee for the pastors in attendance at the retreat was paid by Aid Association for Lutherans through a grant for the observance of the 450th anniversary of the *Augsburg Confession*. There was a good turnout of pastors for the conference. †

Inability to know ourselves

Romans 7:15

"No one knows another person through and through." These words of wisdom came from an alert, 90-year old Christian lady whom I was visiting with recently. She was relating many interesting experiences from her life as well as giving her philosophy of life. She told of a lady who had remarked to her, "I've been married for 18 years to my husband, but I still don't know him." My elderly friend commented that she thought that it was strange for a woman not to know her partner to whom she had been married for that long a time. Then she explained, "At that time I had been married to my husband for ten years, and I felt that I already knew him. But later on I came to find out that I didn't really know him. No one knows another person through and through."

Lafcadio Hearn was a European author who discovered this same fact regarding the Japanese people. He went to Japan in 1890 to escape Western materialism. Finding life in Japan to be very attractive, he married a Japanese woman, became a Japanese citizen, and lived in Japan for the rest of his life. Despite the fact that he diligently studied the Japanese people and their way of life, he wrote, "I cannot yet claim to know much about Japan. Long ago the best and dearest friend I ever had said to me, a little before his death, 'When you find in four or five years more, that you cannot understand the Japanese at all, then you will begin to know something about them.'"

However, it is not only the Japanese people and other members of our family whom we cannot know through and through. The Bible reveals to us the astonishing fact that we human beings do not even know ourselves.

Paul, a faithful Christian man, who carefully sought to know and understand himself, was forced to admit in Romans 7:15, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that I do." Though he had preached in Athens, Greece, and had no doubt heard about the famous Greek philosopher, Socrates, who had as his guiding rule, "Know thyself," yet he acknowledged that he lacked knowledge of himself. He admitted that he couldn't understand his own actions.

Luther said, "The Apostle means to say, 'As a spiritual man I recognize only what is good, and yet I do what I do not desire, namely, that which is evil.'" Luther also found it impossible to understand himself and his actions, for he commented, "I am more afraid of my own heart than of the Pope and his cardinals." John Calvin, another great reformer, said, "No one knows the hundredth part of the sin that clings to his soul." Indeed all of us are an enigma to ourselves. Even when we are trusting in Christ for our salvation and are desiring to live for Him, we so often fail. We find it difficult to understand why our conduct so often does not conform to our principles that we have set up for our lives. Not only is it true that no one knows another person through and through, but also that no man knows himself through and through.

But there is One who knows us extremely well, namely, our God and Father. Our God is the God of knowledge who searches our hearts and understands all the imaginations of our thoughts. He knows us through and through and is thus qualified to help us. Therefore let us turn to Him and pray, "Show me myself, O Lord." Then, having seen ourselves, let us implore His forgiveness and help through Christ. †

Former pastor of Mason- Drummond, Professor's wife die

Rev. G. J. Bretheim, 93, pastor of the Mason-Drummond, Wis., parish from 1955-60, passed away in the Twin Cities in December. A native of Trondheim, Norway, he was a graduate of Augsburg College and Seminary. Other parishes served were Edinburg, Harvey and Bisbee, N. Dak., and Elendale, Minn. In later years he was a visitation pastor.

Among his survivors are his wife Hilda (Tollefson) and five sons. Two of them are American Lutheran Church pastors, Bernhard and Gerhard, both in Washington.

Mrs. John (Vera) Thut, 80, wife of Professor John Thut, who once taught voice at Association Free Lutheran Bible School and lectured on church music in both the Bible School and Seminary, passed away on Dec. 17 in Minneapolis, Minn. She was a teacher of piano herself and was active in that up to two weeks before her death. The Thuts taught at Augsburg College for many years, beginning in 1947. Burial was in Ohio.

Blessed be their memory. †

With our evangelist

Minneapolis, Minn.

Rosedale Lutheran Church
Mar. 2-6

Ralph Rokke, pastor

Walhalla, N. Dak.

Aspelund Lutheran Church
Mar. 18-21

Rodger Olson, pastor

Grafton, N. Dak.

Bethel Lutheran Church
Mar. 23-26

Rodger Olson, pastor

McVie, N. Dak.

New Luther Valley Lutheran Church
Mar. 30-Apr. 3

Wesley Langaas, pastor

Hampden, N. Dak.

Zoar Lutheran Church
Apr. 6-10

Pastoral vacancy

Minneapolis churches install pastor

Installation services for Rev. Ralph Rokke were held on Oct. 21 in Rosedale and Faith Lutheran Churches, Minneapolis, Minn. Pastor R. Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, conducted the installations.

Following the service at Rosedale, a dinner was served in honor of the Rokkes and members who had recently joined the congregation.

Pastor and Mrs. Rokke and daughter Jenny moved to the Cities in mid-September and are living at 140 West 44th Street, Minneapolis, the parsonage at Rosedale.

Personalities

Rev. Ragene Hodnefield, who has served the Dalton, Minn., parish since 1976, has resigned, effective at the end of February. Future plans are indefinite at this time.

Mr. Wayne Pederson, St. Paul, Minn., a graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary and a member of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, has been named manager of radio station KTIS, Roseville, Minn., a ministry of Northwestern College there. He began his new duties on Feb. 1.

Lay Pastor Walter Beaman has accepted the call to serve the Fosston-McIntosh, Minn., parish (Calvary, Mt. Carmel, Trinity). Pastor and Mrs. Beaman have served parishes in the Greenbush, Minn., and Shevlin, Minn., area. They have also been missionaries to Ecuador, South America, under the World Mission Prayer League. Most recently Pastor Beaman concluded a seven-year ministry in the Shevlin Lutheran Parish. The family will be moving to the McIntosh area. †

Cleveland, O.

Word of Life Lutheran Church
Apr. 15-20

Emerson Anderson, lay pastor

Ev. Kenneth Pentti is the speaker at all these services. Uphold him in prayer.



Pictured at Fatih Lutheran are, left to right, Pastor Philip Haugen, Les Miller, Pastor Rokke, Larry Schirmer, Pastor Snipstead, Dave Osthus and Stella Olson.



Church secretary for 50 years

On Sunday, November 4, Lebanon Lutheran Church, Leeds, North Dakota, held a fellowship dinner in honor of Marius Holms, who has so faithfully served as secretary of the church for 50 years. The picture shows Russell Anderson, president of the church, presenting Marius with a gift on behalf of the congregation. Marius has been an active member in many ways, and as he stated, he gives God all the honor and glory for being able to serve the Lord in these ways.

In memoriam

MINNESOTA

Spicer

Austin L. Haverly, 78, Mar. 26, 1979,
Green Lake

Virgil Magnuson, 51, July 31, 1979,
Green Lake

Willmar

Mrs. John (Josie) Farness, 85, May 6,
1979, Zion

John Farness, 93, Dec. 22, 1979, Zion

WISCONSIN

Boscobel

Edward Anderson, 84, Jan. 12, Trinity

World Lutheranism total remains near 70 million

Geneva—(LC)—Membership in Lutheran churches around the world continues to stay near the 70 million mark, according to a survey just completed here by the Lutheran World Federation's Information Bureau.

The statistics, based on data supplied by the churches, show that there are 69,560,244 baptized members in Lutheran congregations.

The total reflects a global trend in gradual membership slippage among many major Christian groupings. The figure reported for world Lutheranism last year was about 70.5 million members.

LWF statisticians pointed out, however, that though the reports showed slightly fewer Lutherans than last year, comparisons cannot be precise because of discrepancies in the statistical methods used by the various church bodies.

In the 98 church bodies that make up the LWF, there are 53.2 million members. LWF-recognized congregations, which number 15 worldwide, reported a total of 12,434 members, and Lutherans in churches not belonging to the LWF total 16.35 million.

On a continental basis, the totals in millions for world Lutheranism (with 1978 figures in parentheses) are:

Europe, 53.04 (54.16); USA and Canada, 8.87 (8.93); Africa, 2.9 (2.88); Asia, 2.88 (2.76); Latin America, 1.09 (1.09); Australiasia, 0.73 (0.68).

Among countries, the Federal Republic of Germany still accounts for about one-third of all Lutherans—22.8 million, compared to about 23.21 million in 1978.

Other countries with more than a million Lutherans are the U.S., 8.6; Sweden, 7.5; German Democratic Republic, 6.5; Denmark, 4.7; Finland, 4.6; Norway, 3.9, and Indonesia, 1.76.

†

HOW TO PROSPER

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

There are many who try to conceal their sin, and try to escape from the consequences of the evil that they have done. But does that avail? Does that bring peace and happiness?

Cain tried to conceal his sin. When God asked him about his brother Abel, he replied: 'I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?' (Gen. 4:9). He tried to hide his sin. But what did it avail? 'Now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. . . . A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth' (Gen. 4:11-12). That curse was all Cain gained by trying to hide his iniquity.

Oh, no, it is sheerest folly to try to hide from God our sin. Read the 139th Psalm of David and be convinced of this truth.

When Moses had made known God's will and commandments unto the people of Israel, he said unto them: "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). Do you hear that? Your sin will find you out, no matter how well you may hide it. If it does not find you out before, you may be sure it will find you out on the great day of judgment. Then your own guilty conscience will pass judgment on you—a judgment more severe than that of any judge.

There is only one place where you can hide your sins so that they will not be found again. And that place is with Jesus. He has atoned for your sins and borne your transgressions. Then in deep humility confess your sins before God, strive earnestly in the strength which He alone can give you to fight against all sin, and you shall find mercy and forgiveness for all your transgressions. Then God will say to you: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Is. 43:23).

I ask Thee, dear Father, be merciful unto me, and heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. †

—Rev. Soren Dahl
Courtesy, Tract Mission