

July 10, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador



Conference 1979

EVANGELISM
HOME MISSIONS

SCHOOLS
STEWARDSHIP

WORLD MISSIONS
YOUTH, PARISH
EDUCATION

MEDITATION MOMENTS

God's Love Demonstrated

It is a great privilege to be able to write these meditations for the next few months. I trust they will be a blessing to each one of us. I would first of all like to center my thoughts on the Book of Jonah.

The story of Jonah is one of the clearest demonstrations of God's love and mercy for all mankind. We see this in Jonah 3:10: "When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened." We also see it in Jonah 4:11: "But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

The man God chose for Nineveh was Jonah. His name means "dove." The Bible says he was the son of Amittai. His home town was Gath-hepher, three miles northeast of Nazareth. This shows us that God can call a missionary, a pastor or any worker in the Kingdom of God out of the smallest town or the largest city in the world. Jonah had the general qualifications of other

prophets. Jonah was Godly and courageous, but certainly showed definite signs of disobedience and being self-willed. I'm thankful we have a God of patience and one very willing to work through men despite their frailties.

Jonah ministered during the reign of Jeroboam. II Kings 14:23-29 tells us of the evil reign of Jeroboam. I'm sure it was not easy for the prophet Jonah. Jonah's mission to Nineveh prefigured the story of Israel in many ways. Jonah was called to a world mission and so was Israel. Jonah refused the mission and so did Israel. Jonah was punished and Israel was scattered among the nations. Jonah repented and Israel shall be restored to her former position. Jonah was obedient in the end and was a witness, as well as Israel becoming a witness to all the earth. Jonah was blessed and so will Israel be blessed by people and nations turning to Christ.

There are three main purposes of the book: 1) to teach God's people their responsibility to deliver the message of salvation; 2) to demonstrate that God honors repentance of sin; 3) to show God's plan of death and resurrection.

The first chapter of Jonah certainly points out to us how Jonah fled from

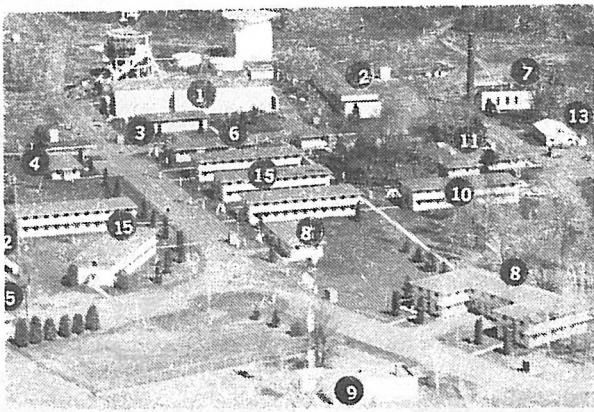
the Lord. It shows the human characteristics in each one of us. We many times shirk our duties. We try to hide from God. You may be that Jonah today who has had a call from God but has not responded. Let the Lord speak to your heart. In verse two of chapter one, Jonah is called by God to go to the city of Nineveh. He said, "Go to the great city of Nineveh . . . because its wickedness has come up before Me." There was much idolatry, immorality and cult worship. There was great wickedness. But Jonah refused. Now Jonah had to get to the very bottom before he was willing to go. It says he went down to Joppa, down to the bottom of the ship and down to the bottom of the waters before he fully realized his sin.

We have many Ninevehs today. God may want you to go and share the Gospel of Christ with them. Be ready to say, "Lord, I'm willing to go."

You may be that reader today who is very much like the city of Nineveh. There is much cult worship, wickedness, immorality and idolatry today. Look to Jesus. Give your life to Jesus. Invite Him into your heart and enjoy God's forgiveness each day.

—Leslie Galland

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Osceola Radar Base purchased

The delegates to the 17th Annual Conference, held at Big Mountain Ski Resort, Whitefish, Mont., June 13-17, voted to purchase the former Air Force radar base near Osceola, Wis., for \$200,000.

The 80-acre site will be bought with legacy and annuity funds, according to the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, which brought the issue before the conference. Present owner of the property is Mr. Roger Krueger, a member of Amery Lutheran Church, AFLC congregation at Amery.

The vote in favor of buying was 180 to 24.

The new property is seen as a future retreat, Bible camp and retirement center. A number of other options are possible also. There are approximately 18 buildings in the complex. A number of apartment units are presently being rented out.

When the question was raised whether or not this purchase might eventually lead to the moving of the Association's headquarters and schools from Plymouth, suburb of Minneapolis, Minn., to Osceola, a representative of the Coordinating Committee replied that that possibility had not even entered their consideration in recommending the purchase.

New staff

It was announced to the conference that Mr. Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak., a member of the Coordinating Committee, has accepted the position of Director of Development in the AFLC on a part-time basis. This is a new position in the church. Mr. Miedema, former mayor of Valley City and member of the North Dakota Legislature, will work particularly in the area of wills and annuity counselling, but also be available for other stewardship consultation as well.

Although known previously, the conference welcomed Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich., as the new evangelist-youth worker in the AFLC. He will begin work August 1. Pastor and Mrs. Pentti and family will move to their home community and will reside at 513 Cleveland Ave., Ishpeming, Mich., and he can be contacted there for appointments.

Mr. Miedema and Pastor Pentti were installed at the closing service of the Annual Conference. A report on the installation will be carried next time.

Schools

The conference passed various resolutions that, in substance, are not new, such as the need to encourage and aid young people to attend our Bible School; the call to prayer for more men in God's harvest field, hence in Seminary; and encouragement of the faculty in the pursuit of advanced studies. Gratitude was expressed for the addition of Rev. Robert Lloyd Lee to the school's faculty and the inclusion of the Seminary in Lutheran Brotherhood's matching gift program, Impact.

Committee No. 2 had proposed a resolution supporting a move to eventually add a third year to the curriculum of the Bible School, not to change the two year requirement for a certificate of graduation, but to offer an opportunity for students to train for lay ministries. Dean Kenneth Moland had described these fields as parish worker, youth worker, parish education, home and world mission service and church music. But after concern was expressed

What We Did

Growing in numbers and budget

Congregation Accepted

One new congregation has been received into the AFLC in the past year, Chippewa Lutheran Church of Brandon, Minn. It is being served by Mr. Gordon Grage, to be ordained on July 22. The total number of congregations in the fellowship is now 132.

Pastor Snipstead, church president, told the conference that the baptized membership of the AFLC can now be

placed at 14,738 and the confirmed membership at 11,085.

Budget Increased

Giving in the AFLC increased approximately 18% in the last fiscal year and has doubled in the past five years. A budget of \$582,237 was voted by the conference, \$13,000 above the amount recommended by the Budget Analysis Committee and \$100,602 above the current year.

ABOUT THE COVER: Large photo: Pastor Kenneth Pentti, the new evangelist, preached at the Saturday youth night service of the conference. Small photo: Big Mountain Ski Lodge, Whitefish, MT.

Schools . . .

by two delegates that this might lead to a departure from AFLBS' role as a Bible school by the introduction of unrelated subjects to the curriculum and add expense to the school's budget when present faculty must be adequately supported financially, the resolution was soundly defeated in a rising vote.

The Bible School has declined in enrollment since the peak year of 1976-77. Dean Moland laid some of the blame on present population trends and home mission congregations which largely have higher child population in the elementary grades than in high school at present.

World Missions

The resolutions on World Missions touched all bases. For instance, thanks was expressed to God for the continuing nationalization of the Brazilian church, for the growth of the work in Rondonia, Brazil, and the new mission field in Mexico.

And resolutions of substance were general: asking the Board to pursue establishment of work in Paraguay, seeking additional personnel for the Mexican mission and encouragement of further development of extension seminary work in Brazil, as examples.

Stewardship

The stewardship resolutions were general in nature, advocating tithing, Scriptural principles of stewardship, greater use of the AFLC Sunday bulletin service, et.

A resolution which called upon AFLC members to give "number one priority" to AFLC work in the midst of many worthy causes drew a challenge, but delegates passed it with the intent, not of ruling out other giving, but taking care of our own particular work first.

Home Missions

There were no special actions taken in the area of Home Missions, apart from a conference decision to ask a love offering for a new congregation being started in Aberdeen, S. Dak. An existing group there is coming into the Association and the love offering will give aid to it at a time when no provision can be made for it in the budget. The offering is suggested for the second Sunday in September, a dollar per member is needed and an anonymous donor will match an amount up to

\$5,000 for the work in Aberdeen.

The conference learned that work will be taken up in Vancouver, Wash., this summer, under the budget. The AFLC was involved there a few years ago, but discontinued its effort. Now a new effort will be made under the leadership of Rev. Charles Kvanvig, who has been serving as dean of men at AFLBS while he, his wife and daughter wait for doors to open for them to go to Brazil.

It was reported that eight parishes

(nine congregations) are presently receiving Home Mission aid.

The work of the Home Mission teams of Bible School students has proved a blessing in the church. A team of three members is active this summer.

Rev. Elden Nelson is becoming a full-time Home Mission director this summer. He and his family have moved to the Twin Cities where he will have his office. He may also be reached through the AFLC offices at Medicine Lake.

Publications, Parish Education, Youth

As to the first two, the conference commended the Board for the publication of new materials and asked for more courses which teach Lutheran doctrine for those beyond confirmation age.

Grateful to God for the dedicated Christian youth in the church and for the Youth Board and Luther League Federation, the main area of interest in the resolutions concerning youth work was one which authorized the securing of a separate youth worker or youth director and the release of the evangelist from youth worker duties when that occurs. It was pointed out that the evangelist will continue to be an effective agent in dealing with young people

even when he no longer carries the title of youth worker and that youth work involves more than evangelism.

Pensions

A renewed call was issued for support of the practice of giving a special offering each October (third Sunday, preferably) to a fund for unusual needs among pastors and pastors' widows.

Due to a 25% increase in the hospitalization insurance premiums in the church's plan for pastors and church workers, it was recommended that hiring organizations pay 12% of the worker's salary toward the medical and

Evangelism

The conference said "thank-you" to Rev. David Molstre for his four years as AFLC evangelist-youth worker and welcomed Rev. Kenneth Pentti as the new one.

The delegates resolved affirmation for the AFLC conviction that the preaching of the Word is the basis for all evangelism and that Christians must "live the Word," as well as preach it.

pension plan and that the individual pay six percent. At present the amounts are ten and five.

Report summary

Chairman, Coordinating Committee

Living in a fast-changing society brings many problems to mankind. Changes are difficult and hard to accept at times as they often are the cause of mental and physical stress. How are we going to cope with life and all its problems? The answer comes from God's Word. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Rev. Wendell Johnson

Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Seminary and Bible School

One of the great needs of our schools at this time is for more students both in our Seminary and in our Bible School. The present decrease in enrollment is not good in a day when doors are opening as never before for the building of free and living congregations. We are living in a secular and materialistic society, when young people who ought to obey the Lord's call to Christian service often yield to more attractive opportunities in the secular field. We would urge upon all concerned members in our congregations

to join with us in prayer for an increased enrollment both in our Seminary and Bible School.

Rev. Jay Erickson

Dean of the Seminary

Yes, indeed, God's Word is relevant for today's world. The motto of our Seminary is Titus 1:9. Let us today reaffirm it with deep gratitude, conviction, and application: "He (God's steward) must hold firm to the sure Word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine, and also to confute those who contradict it."

Rev. Amos Dyrud

Opening message expounded theme, "God's Word for Today's World"

Rev. John P. Strand, Fargo, N. Dak., past president of the AFLC, preached the sermon at the opening conference session. His text was the conference text, II Tim. 3:14-17.

He said that Paul wrote these words near the end of his own ministry to young Timothy who was beginning his. No doubt Timothy was impressed by the colossal needs of the world and felt there wasn't much time in which to act. To that situation, Paul wrote his letter and the instructions he gave then are for us today also, Pastor Strand declared.

He presented four main teachings in the text. 1) Continue in the things learned. Timothy had learned from Grandmother Lois and Mother Eunice and he did well to hold to those things. So also, we should not forsake the old in favor of the new if truth is at stake. Nothing is as important, Pastor Strand declared, as being Scriptural, and the Scriptures are old.

2) The Word is profitable for reproof. There is the temptation to approve of what people want and to present that. We must accept God's reproof for what it is, His direction for us.

3) It is profitable for correction. Pastor Strand said that the Word gives

correct guidance. There must be a place in life for the Word and prayer, otherwise the Lord can't lead us.

4) Training in righteousness. This has to do with personal discipline, Pastor Strand stated. Use the Word in such a way that real righteousness will show forth.

Our task, he concluded, before the large opening night audience, is to use the Word of God as we should. Then God can work in us as He wants to do.

Devotional sessions

The three conference prayer hours were led by Pastor Merle Knutson of Newfolden, Minn. He based them on The Lord's Prayer and read extensive portions of Luther's Large Catechism relative to it.

The leaders of the opening devotions for the business sessions were Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, Ariz.; Richard Bartholomew, Drummond, Wis.; Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.; Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn.; Charles Knapp, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak. (The first four named are recent graduates of the Seminary and the addresses are those of their first parishes.)

Closing business

Toward the close of the conference on Saturday afternoon, two issues were brought up, one as a question, the other as a resolution.

The question was whether or not the time of annual conferences could be moved to the third week in June. It is presently held, by long tradition, in the second week in June. It was expressed that there would be other conflicts in changing the time.

The resolution was one calling for simplification of conference procedures, specifically the elimination of some or all report reading and reduction in time spent reading resolutions, with the result that more time be available for prayer at conferences. By a vote of 87 to 14 the delegates expressed their confidence in the present procedure. One delegate voiced the need to hear a resolution once in order to become aware of it before being ready to act upon it when it is later read again prior to action.

1980 Conference at Valley City

An invitation to host the 1980 Annual Conference was extended by Grace Lutheran Church, Valley City, N. Dak. It was accepted. The most recent conference held there was in 1970.

Reports . . .

Dean of the Bible School

Paul urged Timothy to be sure to teach in such a way so as to enable all to have "the treasure of a good foundation for the future." As we examine the continuing vision for AFLBS, we recognize that this need exists more than ever. Aimlessness and wasted lives more and more characterize our society, both among youth and adults. AFLBS seeks to teach God's Word in order that men and woman may "take hold of that which is life indeed."

Rev. Kenneth Moland

Chairman, Board of Home Missions

Why is it that interest in missions everywhere is lagging and financial support is waning? It is because Christian people are being brainwashed that heathen as well as respectable church people are not lost even though they have no personal faith in Jesus Christ. What has really cut the nerve of missionary obligation and enthusiasm? It is this: loss of a mighty conviction about salvation and lack of concern of the present and future disaster to the soul and civilization without vital and dynamic Christianity. A sense of immediate danger and urgency in salvation has largely disappeared. Many

pastors no longer preach as dying men to dying people because they are not convinced that men apart from Christ are lost and dying in their sins.

Rev. Herbert Franz

Home Mission Director

It is obvious that there is a great need for the Gospel message here in our beloved United States. Everywhere we look there are people in need of salvation. Inquiries come to us for help in establishing free, living Lutheran congregations; how much time we have we do not know. We do know that Christ has told us to "Work the works of Him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work."

(Continued on page 8)

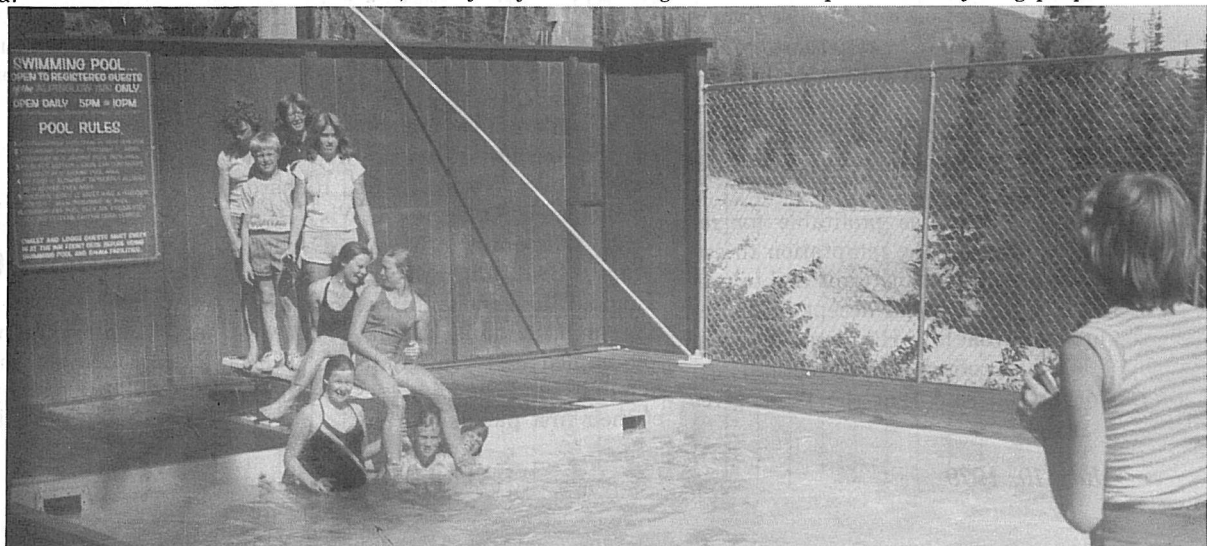


Mr. Lawrence Dahlgren, Lake Park, MN (center) was surprised with a visit from friends living in the Kallispell area.



Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND and Mrs. Marie Kneeland, Summit, SD, National WMF officers. The WMF convention report will be in the next issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

Warm, sunny days meant long hours in the pool for the young people.





Pastor Richard Snipstead



A youth choir sang at the Saturday evening service.



Mr. Sam Spading, Kirkland, WA and Pastor Charles Kvanvig, Vancouver, WA



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, Astoria, OR

Scenes from the Annual Conference



Mr. Kent Quanbeck and daughter, McVille, ND

Mrs. Oscar Folden, Clara Thompson, and Mrs. Bruce Dalager at the WMF Fellowship Breakfast



Reports . . .

Thank you to the people of our AFLC who have prayed and given for this task. May we continue our task with renewed zeal while it is still day.

Rev. Elden Nelson

Chairman, Commission on Evangelism

Evangelism is a vital subject for our churches today. Are we faithfully and Scripturally carrying out our task? It is good to hear that most of our churches have special evangelistic meetings. It is good to hear that there is a concern for personal evangelism. In some cases that concern has been turned into action. Different programs have been implemented to train soul-winners.

We are thankful for the concern of our pastors and lay people. We are thankful for those who have given of their hearts and time to serve as evangelists this past year in our churches.

In today's world there is a vital need for Scriptural evangelism. We must admit there are many efforts made—mass and individual. It is important that we use spiritual discernment or our zeal may be without knowledge. As an Association we have definite convictions on how evangelism should be carried out.

Rev. Terry Olson

Executive Secretary of Parish Education

We desire to have our children WORD-taught. When we consider the two years that our pastors have our young people in confirmation instruction we desire that our Sunday School curriculum will provide sufficient Bible training. It is also our concern that

Lutheran doctrinal teaching be introduced to our youth prior to confirmation. This we have taken seriously as we have planned and promoted *The Ambassador Sunday School series*. Thank you for your cooperation.

Miss Judith Wold

Chairman, Youth Board

The responsibility for the Christian education of our youth does not rest primarily on the congregation, however. God has placed it upon the parents with the promise that when the child is old he will not depart from Godly training. Many parents because of other "pressing" matters or feelings of incompetence have shirked this responsibility and relinquished their God-given trust. This is not as it should be. No one wields as great an influence over children and youth as parents who teach by word and consistent Godly living. The earlier children receive this training the more effective and permanent the results. Many "helps" are available for parents but none is as complete as *Luther's Small Catechism*. We would encourage its use in the home.

Rev. Bruce Dalager

Chairman, Luther League Federation

We encourage the Leaguers of the AFLC to be faithful and diligent in all affairs of congregational life. Seek fellowship in the Word, at home and in the congregation as a whole. The Spirit of God works through the Word and Sacraments to perform His sanctifying work. Pray that together we might avail ourselves of the manifold grace of God in Christ being offered through His congregations. In an unsanctified

world, we need to be made holy, purified from sin, to be set apart for God's use. "This is the will of God, your sanctification."

Rev. Dale Mellgren

Chairman, Stewardship Board

True Christian Stewardship is nothing less than presenting one hundred percent of all that we are and have into the hands of our good and gracious God and allowing Him to have full and complete control of it all. Such was the dedication of the early Christians of whom it was said, "They have turned the world upside down." God grant that we may experience a revival that will move us to similar action.

Rev. Edwin Kjos

Chairman, Board of Pensions

We, as Christians, are to be good stewards of the gifts God has bestowed upon us. I believe one of the ways to help in our stewardship is to provide adequately for ourselves and families. Paul writes in I Tim. 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Clifford Holm

Chairman, Board of World Missions

Our Lord Jesus looked at people with the heart of pity and compassion. As their Good Shepherd His heart of love longed to draw them close to Himself for salvation and protection. He still looks upon lost mankind with pity, longing to be real and precious to each one, anxiously wanting to offer salvation to each sinner. To you and me in modern America, He is saying, "Look at all those thousands of souls waiting to be harvested for my kingdom. All over the world millions are in darkness. Who will pray for them? Who will take the good news of salvation to them and enable them to be translated into My light? I need faithful laborers for My harvest field!" We need to be deeply stirred by this plea from our Savior and we need to respond with earnest prayers for laborers. Better yet, we need to respond with a willing spirit to serve, saying, "Here I am, Lord, send me."

Rev. Eugene Enderlein

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1-May 31

Fund	Total Budget	Current Budget	Received in May	Received to Date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 90,775.00	\$30,258.32	\$10,016.72	\$22,712.13	75.	167.
Schools	150,105.00	50,035.00	11,076.76	33,579.79	67.	22.
Home Missions	85,000.00	28,333.32	8,006.71	21,917.80	77.	26.
World Missions	128,755.00	42,918.36	8,115.38	27,963.62	65.	22.
Praise Fund	27,000.00	9,000.00	1,752.01	8,680.09	96.	32.
TOTAL	\$481,635.00	\$160,545.00	\$38,967.58	\$114,853.43	71.5	23.8
1977-78	\$445,332.00	\$148,444.00	\$20,705.48	\$85,341.52	57.5	19.

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR FEATHERSTONE

Two weeks ago we had our concluding devotional article written by Pastor Philip Featherstone of Pukwana, S. Dak. It can be said of his writing as has been true of others that his articles were helpful, also because they were true to life. We know that many lives have been touched by them.

Pastor Featherstone was hospitalized for some days during the time he was responsible for "Meditation Moments." We appreciate that he was able to keep on schedule in his writing anyway. And some thanks must no doubt go to his good wife for that, too. May the Lord bless him as he carries on his work in our fine parish in the Pukwana-Chamberlain area.

In this issue you see the first in a series of articles by Pastor Leslie Galland of Everett, Wash. It is good to have one of our West Coast pastors as devotional writer again and our people out that way will certainly be among our most interested readers of page 2 during these next six months.

Pastor Galland has a busy ministry in our congregation, Calvary, in beautiful Everett. He works well with all age groups, from the children to the elderly. We are grateful for his willingness to write for us now and ask God's blessing also upon this task which he undertakes.

DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN

When some 275 persons in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations talk about "the mountain" from now on, they are very likely referring to Big Mountain near Whitefish, Mont., where the recent Annual Conference was held. It has become for them a place of pleasant memory for all time.

Delegates referred to "being on the mountain," spoke of coming "down from the mountain" and testified to a "mountain-top experience." Certainly the setting for this year's conference was unique. From the mountain side we looked out for miles upon beautiful Montana countryside ringed by mountains, some of them snow-flecked or snow-capped in mid-June. Some of us literally stayed up there, far from everyday life, from Tuesday to Sunday. In a special way we were able to concentrate on conducting the Lord's business through our church.

But again and again there were reminders, "We have to go down from the mountain. Life is lived in the valleys." And so it is and we are back there now and we see the tasks that are before us. But thank God for the times when we can go "up the mountain," too.

This issue of the *Ambassador* was prepared in two states, four towns and five locations. That may be a record. Because of the time schedule and the moving around we can't be as ready as we'd like. Real editorializing about the conference will have to wait, for one thing. That may give us all time to digest conference actions, some of which we've tried to report in the last two issues, anyway.

May we say a hearty thank-you to the dear friends of Faith and Stillwater Lutheran Churches and Pastor and Mrs. John Rieth and family for their very fine work in hosting us. How good to fellowship with you all! What an excellent location Big Mountain was for us! How well the staff there took care of us! Thank you, thank you! God bless you all.



Evangelism Today

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS (Second in a Series)

1. *Men and women, boys and girls are lost in sin and need a Savior.* Our modern society has dropped the word "sin" from its vocabulary. Yet we know that sin is found wherever man is found. Sin reveals itself in man's frustration, restlessness, hate and worry; man's drive for materialism and pleasure; man's disappointment in himself

and shame over sinful habits he cannot break. Sin is not only wrong **DOING** but a wrong inward *condition*, although each produces the other. The evangelist's task is to preach the truth of God's Word to reveal sin and also to present Christ as the only answer.

2. *To reach the indifferent souls inside the church as well as outside it.*

The church is a "hospital for sinners, not a hothouse for saints." People need to be awakened to the fact that being "religious" or just believing in the existence of God or attending church will not get them to heaven. Receiving Jesus Christ into their lives as their personal Savior is the only way to be saved.

3. *People need to know that they were created for close, daily fellowship with God.* People are groping for reality, direction and fulfillment in life. Without Christ as their Savior and Lord, people are missing the greatest good that life can give them. Evangelistic preaching presents Christ as the only One who can fill life's void.

(Continued on page 16)



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



HELLO TO THE TURNERS

The blue car in the Blanchard yard was the cause of many excited remarks as the Johnsons continued down the road. Suddenly, Mom suggested, "Dad, let's drive back and stop long

Melissa and Ann shrank against the car cushions, frightened at the thought of actually meeting the "jailbird." But the other children who had heard none of the gossip about the new neighbors were eager to meet the new family.

Dad turned at the crossroads. Soon the Johnson car was parked near the little brown house.

Ann squeezed her hands nervously as she watched her father and mother get out of the car and step up on the front porch. Dad knocked at the door.

It seemed to Ann that it was a long time before the door opened. Jailbird people would be suspicious, and wouldn't be quick to open a door!

She heard a man's voice saying, "Hello."

Then she heard Mom say, "We're the Peter Johnsons, your neighbors up the road half a mile. We just wanted to stop a few minutes to say Hello and to welcome you to our neighborhood."

From inside the house came a woman's voice, but Ann could not tell what she was saying.

Soon the door closed behind Mom and Dad.

While her brothers looked curiously about, hoping to see signs of future friends, Ann fearfully hoped that her parents would soon come safely out of that house. She was frightened at the idea of Mom and Dad being in there with the jailbird and his wife—and very likely, with those four bad sons.

"Say, look over there—on the porch," exclaimed Mark. "Look at those guns! Three of them!"

Ann looked in the same direction. She stared in terror. Three big guns! She scarcely heard Stephen saying, "The Turners must like to hunt. That's a rifle and a couple of double-barreled shotguns."

Ann had her own ideas about the guns. Of course, a jailbird family would have guns. But not for hunting ducks and pheasants!

She put her hands to her face and began to cry with fright.

"Why, Ann," exclaimed Stephen in surprise, "what in the world is the matter with you?"

Ann had no answer. But Melissa piped out, "I know! She's scared! She's scared—of the—jailbird."

"Jailbird," puzzled Mark and Stephen together. "What do you mean?"

"Oh, we promised not—to tell—anybody."

"Not to tell what?"

"Oh—we can't tell anybody—what!" By now both Ann and Melissa were crying.

At just that moment, Mom and Dad stepped out on the porch, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Turner. Ann could see only four blurry figures because her eyes were so full of tears, but she did hear Mom saying very plainly, "Good-bye now. I'll be sending a hot dish over for you folks tomorrow. And then we'll all see you Sunday morning."

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Would the sight of the guns frighten Ann as much if she had never heard the jailbird story about Mr. Turner?
2. Do you think Mr. Turner is a jailbird? Why or why not?
3. Read Proverbs 26:22 (King James). Do you think this proverb applies to Ann and Melissa?
4. Can you think of times when you have suffered because of talebearing?
5. What is the best thing to do when we hear someone saying evil about another person?
6. Even though an evil report may be true, what should we do or not do about it?

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MEMORY VERSE

He who digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back upon him who starts it rolling. Proverbs 26:27

6. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for what Christ has done for you.

Write your prayer if you so desire.

So live in Christ:

Rooted—inner growth

Built up—outward expression

Established—developing deeper convictions and becoming more certain.

Abounding—growth in.

Gratitude—running over.

In Summary:

Let us help one another to “live Christ.” Here are some ways in which we can do this: prepare our Bible studies well, attend the local WMF meetings, invite others to attend, be willing to share personal insights and hopes, express our concerns, encourage others to express themselves, when convenient volunteer our services and be available to the Lord.

Then let us reach out to others. Other people need our support, encouragement and prayers. We should make ourselves available to the lonely, troubled and needy. Be occupied in your own mission field.

Mrs. Melvin Walla

Fergus Falls, Minnesota



August, 1979

So Live in Christ

Review

We have tried in these studies to think of sections of the book of Colossians, yet to keep it related to the whole. We must always study verses in their context, not by themselves. Many false doctrines are built on isolated passages. Re-read the letter concentrating on yourself instead of the letter. What did God's Word say to you?

If—you have been rejecting Christ's invitation to come to Him, have you said, “Lord Jesus, I come”?

If—you have been uncertain—have you said, “In faith, I accept”?

If—you have been facing hardship or difficulty—have you said, “Thank You for strength”?

If—you have been anxious about the powers of darkness—have you said, “Lord, You are still in control”?

If—you have been tempted to follow “other” gospels—have you said, “Lord, teach me the truth—”?

1. Paul has expressed many interesting thoughts in this letter. Let us look at some of the major ones. What do they have to say to you? Always it has been on our life “in Christ.”

WMF Project Calendar

August-Honorary Membership, In Memoriams

We are reminded this month to honor faithful members and friends. There are those women who will be recognized for their work in and with the WMF and then presented with the WMF Honorary Membership pin.

A short Memorial Service will also be held for those faithful WMF women who have now departed to be with their Lord.

The offering for this month is received for the housing of missionaries when home on furlough.

Locate these and then summarize the idea in your own words:

1. So live in Him, 1:3-14 _____

b. So live in Him, 1:15-23 _____

c. So live in Him, 1:24-2:7 _____

d. So live in Him, 2:8-15 _____

e. So live in Him, 2:16-3:4 _____

f. So live in Him, 3:5-17 _____

g. So live in Him, 3:18-4:6 _____

2. Here is a list of words that were used in Colossians. Do you know what they mean? What do they mean to you?

1. Faith (1:4, 23; 2:7) _____

b. Love (1:46) _____

c. Hope (1:5, 23) _____

d. Grace (1:2; 4:18) _____

3. Peace (1:20; 3:15) _____

f. Truth (1:5) _____

g. Wisdom (1:9, 28; 4:5) _____

h. Understanding (1:9; 2:2) _____

i. Fruit (1:6, 10) _____

j. Glory (1:27; 3:4) _____

k. Inheritance (1:12) _____

(Today the "heir" is one who has not yet come into his "inheritance," but has to wait until the death of the present possessor. In the Bible, however, the Christian's heritage is something present and actual, being enjoyed here and now.)

1. Saints (1:2, 12) _____

m. Redemption (1:14) _____

n. Forgiveness (1:14; 3:13) _____

o. Reconcile (1:20, 21) _____

p. Riches (1:27) _____

q. Treasure (2:3) _____

r. Holy (3:12) _____

s. Put Off (3:8, 9) _____

t. Put On (3:10) _____

u. Rooted (2:7) _____

3. We have just thought together about some words that should become very meaningful to us as children of the Heavenly Father. How does Matt. 7:24, 26 relate to us and our behavior? _____

4. Notice, from Micah 6:8, how our relationship to God has to do with the way we treat others. _____

5. What changes in your life have been effected by this study in the area of:

a. Understanding God's Word? _____

b. Personal faith? _____

c. Appreciation of church and what it does for you? _____

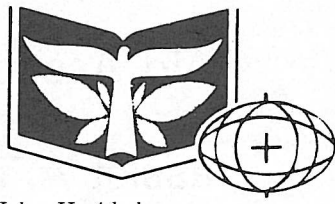
d. Your family? _____

e. Your work? _____

f. Prayer life? _____

g. Your disposition and attitudes? _____

h. Concerns for the lonely, the needy, those who do not know Christ? _____



by Missionary John H. Abel

Christian, What on earth can we do?

In Ephesians, the Bible declares that Christ gave teaching pastors to the church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. In 1961, Dr. James Kennedy, organizing pastor of a small home mission church in Florida, began taking laymen with him on home calls and teaching them how to share the Gospel. A couple of years previous to this his church had been down to less than 20 members. From 1961 and on, it began to experience great growth. Today the congregation has over 3,000 members and on many weekends has more than 4,000 in attendance. Over a period of years he also developed a training program and a body of material which the Spirit of God has used to help many learn how to present the Gospel home-to-home and person-to-person more effectively and how to train others to do so also.

Archie Parish, present international director of Evangelism Explosion International, has said: "The instant that you and I trusted Christ we were eligible to enter Heaven. Now since that is true, we have to ask ourselves, 'Why has God left us in this imperfect, confused world?' The whole purpose for our existence is to glorify God. There are many ways we can glorify God in this world and in the next. But there is one thing you and I can do to glorify Him in this world that we cannot do in the next. That one thing is witness—and develop disciples."

After taking a Training Seminar in Minneapolis in 1976 and qualifying to become a Teacher-Trainer, it was my desire to get the basics in this material translated into Portuguese and tested in our live situation there. Pastor Yeddo Gattel was invaluable in this and was also a trainee in our second cycle of training. We began with our Bible Institute and Seminary students in the first cycle of 17 weeks and now four cycles have been completed. Some of our first trainees are now training others in their year of internship, as they serve churches which have no resident pastor. It is my opinion that the three young men we have doing this are the

most effective students we have yet put out from our Seminary, for they have shown the confidence to lead out on their own, visiting and witnessing and training others. This was something which we often noted lacking in students who were unsure of themselves and did not possess the training which leads to confidence in beginning and successfully completing a clear presentation of the Gospel on a person-to-person basis.

Someone has said, "We are all (as Christians) witnesses for Jesus Christ—either good or bad. We are ambassadors in this foreign land, but we may have forgotten our message in our briefcase, and perhaps most of the time we act more like secret agents." In Brazil we have had great blessings with the Evangelism Explosion training method. We already had the main text translated into Portuguese, but without all the accompanying related training material it would have been difficult to conduct a training course. By the end of 1978 we had this material (already field tested and corrected) over a broad enough area to conduct a good training cycle. David Abel and a Brazilian pastor in Curitiba are still working on the translation of assignment schedules and some related material.

What has home evangelism training meant to those who have been in the course? More than 20 lay persons and five pastors have been involved in our training cycles in Campo Mourao. Their enthusiastic testimonies could fill some more pages of this article, but let me tell you of one particular couple. He is a cabinet maker of German background. She is a housewife. Their names are Martin and Ivone. For the past two years their home has been a

meeting place one evening a week for training sessions.

Martin really disciplined himself in learning the Bible verses and the outline of the Gospel presentation. Sometimes he would be walking around his shop giving the course out loud to himself. At times he would be over at his neighbor's garage (a mechanic) giving a presentation there. After two training cycles he became an assistant teacher-trainer himself, and after the next session his wife also became a trainer. They are now both going out each week, taking two others with them, whom they are training to be witnesses for Christ. Ivone goes along with two trainees and Martin, on another day, goes out with two other trainees, for they have an infant son at home to be looked after. And besides, experience has shown both in the U.S. and Brazil that it is best if husband and wife do not belong to the same team.

If you could hear the enthusiasm of this young couple for this home visitation program, you would sense that it has meant a lot to their lives. It has also meant a great deal to our Central Free Lutheran Church in Campo Mourao, for in 1978 four young couples and seven children were taken into membership in our church who were direct results of the contacts of Martin and Ivone and visitations by our Evangelism Explosion teams.

To paraphrase an old song, "We don't claim to set the world on fire," but we are thankful for more and more light bearers, who are witnessing to the Gospel and seeing the Holy Spirit light a flame (eternal life) in many hearts. Please pray with us for the ongoing of Evangelism Explosion training in Brazil.

Women for Christ

Western South Dakota holds first WMF rally

The first annual spring meeting of the western South Dakota Women's Missionary Federation met in Faith on Sat., April 28. Registration with coffee was from 10 to 11 with Mrs. Laura Anderson and Mrs. Bernice Teller as the servers. A musical prelude by Mrs. Karen Sletten and Mrs. Corrine Schmidt preceded the opening by Mrs. Gwen Kilness. John 12:26 was the key verse, fitting the theme "Follow Me," with "Where He Leads I'll Follow" the theme song.

Devotions were led by Mrs. Florence Schueler of Eagle Butte. Pastor and Mrs. Philip Rokke of Reva sang a duet, "Lift Up Your Cross and Follow Me." Miss Priscilla Wold presented her colored slides of the mission work and scenery in Brazil. Ginger Waterland, Jayne Jordan, Alice Maier and Judy Chappell sang "Down in the Valley with My Saviour." Jeanie Collins read about the WMF and how important it is to get involved in its work. Aletha Olson, Hazel Langness and Karen Sletten presented the WMF projects.

After the noon luncheon, the ladies were taken on a tour of three homes in Faith: Mrs. Verla Lange, with many beautiful antiques; Mrs. Karen Sletten, with one of the older houses in Faith; and the Bethel parsonage.

The afternoon opened with Scripture reading, Ruth 1:3-19, by Venoy Tenold. Marlene Rokke led the singspiration.

A short business meeting was led by Karen Sletten. Being this was the first ever spring WMF meeting, comments were asked for, with the consensus favorable to continue. It was also suggested there be no officers but that an offering be taken. Dorothy Weichert gave a short explanation on the use of Bethel's Mission Barrel.

Venoy Tenold of Reva presented a reading, "Secret of the Sea," based on Matt. 13:2-3.

Priscilla Wold told of her experience on the mission field.

Language problems, the importance of fellowship in our language and the importance of praying for the missionaries by name were given. We need to pray for young people to go to the mission field but the workers at home are needed also. There is no age limit for going to the field. In some countries, especially India, people can get into the country easier as carpenters, bricklayers, etc., to do mission work.

The afternoon closed with the singing of the theme song and prayer. Coffee and cookies were served before everyone headed home.

Dorothy Weichert

(Ed. Note: The South Dakota District WMF holds an annual convention in the fall. The meeting described above was a spring gathering of women in the western part of the state, even as those in the eastern part hold a separate spring meeting.)

Aid Association for Lutherans grants assist AFLTS

Our Seminary received a total of \$4,000 from AAL, the fraternal life and health insurance society with headquarters at Appleton, Wisconsin, for the 1978-79 school-year. This grant was allocated by the AAL into four categories as follows:

I Student Support—\$1,000. This was equally divided and given to four seminary students. Our school's Scholarship and Grant-In-Aid Committee made the selection of recipients based on the needs evidenced by the information stated on the application forms turned in by the students.

II Faculty Support—\$1,400 to be used towards paying the costs of graduate studies in the field of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, by Rev. Francis Monseth for the Th.D. degree.

III Institution Support—\$1,000. This amount was used towards paying the costs of conducting the Inter-Term Courses in History of Christian Doctrine and Outreach through Journalism, January 3-26, 1979.

IV In-Service Continuing Education Support—\$1,000. This grant was given to our pastors as scholarships for the cost of registration for the Pastors' Conference at our campus January 16-18, 1979.

On February 14th, AAL general agent Mr. Martin Kruse presented a ten-volume "International Encyclopedia of Higher Education" to our library.

On Friday evening, April 20th, AAL sponsored a beautiful banquet at the Sheraton Inn-Northwest in honor of our graduating seniors and their wives. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kruse and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hinck represented AAL in hosting this event. Also invited were the faculty and their wives. We all enjoyed good relaxed fellowship, sharing and delicious food together. The graduates each received a gift of a communion set or pectoral cross.

We are grateful indeed to Aid Association For Lutherans for these grants and they have graciously intimated that continued help is forthcoming.

—Submitted

Mission Board to sell lake property

The Board of World Missions of the AFLC announces its intended sale of a cabin on lakeshore property located on Lake Clitherall, near Battle Lake, Ottertail County, Minn.

The property will be open to inspection this month of July and the first part of August. If you desire to inspect the property or have further questions,

please call 1-218-681-4643 or 1-218-681-1910.

Sealed bids should be sent to the Secretary, Board of World Missions, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441, and must be received no later than August 11. Bids will be opened August 13.

The Board of World Missions reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Morgan Avenue installs new organ

Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn., Chester R. Heikkinen, pastor, has a new Saville organ. It was purchased, installed and paid for in just three months. On the evening of the Sunday after Easter an organ recital was held with Richard Herbst as organist.

The congregation's old Wurlitzer organ, purchased in 1950 but still in good condition, was donated to a grateful home mission church, Grace of Pelkie, Mich. It was used for the very first time in that church on the Sunday their new church was dedicated, May 27.

—Corr.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Chester R. Heikkinen, pastor at Morgan Avenue Lutheran in Minneapolis, Minn., for 27 years, has resigned, effective August 31. Future plans are indefinite at this time.

Committees elected for 1980 conference

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1980

Eastern North Dakota—Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.
Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana—Mr. Erling Brekke, Antelope, Mont.
South Dakota—Rev. William Moberg, Ortley, S. Dak.
Northern Minnesota—Mr. Curtis Thompson, Newfolden, Minn.
Southwest Central Minnesota—Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.
Lake Superior—Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.
Minneapolis—Mr. Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn.
Northern Michigan—Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.
Arizona—Mr. Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, Ariz.
West Coast—Mr. Howard Johnson, Astoria, Ore.

COMMITTEE NO. 1, 1980 (Administration)

Rev. William Moberg, Ortley, S. Dak.
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak.
Mr. Donald Anderson, Tioga, N. Dak.
Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.
Mr. Alvin Peterson, Grafton, N. Dak.

COMMITTEE NO. 2 (Schools)

Rev. Stephen Odegard, Eugene, Ore.
Rev. John Rieth, Kalispell, Mont.
Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.
Mr. Don Berge, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mr. Lester Davidson, Ortley, S. Dak.

COMMITTEE NO. 3 (Missions)

Rev. Dean Casselton, Zumbrota, Minn.
Rev. L. C. Dynneson, Nogales, Ariz.
Mr. Robert Lofthus, McVile, N. Dak.
Mr. LeRoy Knutson, Newfolden, Minn.
Mr. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.

COMMITTEE NO. 4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)

Rev. Jay Eberth, Chassell, Mich.
Rev. Wesley Langaas, Hampden, Dak.
Mr. Percy Stokke, Newfolden, Minn.
Mr. Russell Duncan, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mrs. Norris Fugleberg, Roseau, Minn.

COMMITTEE NO. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions)

Mr. Ted Hansen, Mason, Wis.
Rev. Larry Haagenson, Sedan, Minn.
Rev. Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash.
Mr. Olve Willand, Ferndale, Wash.
Mr. Carl Hanson, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Mr. Roger Krueger, Amery, Wis.
Mr. Emil Hass, Jr., Valley City, N. Dak.
Mr. Richard Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.
Mr. Ronald Shane, Kalispell, Mont.
Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.

COLLOQUY COMMITTEE

Rev. Ernest Langness, Faith, S. Dak.
Rev. Edwin Kjos, Culbertson, Mont.
Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.
Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.

CORPORATION ELECTIONS

The following persons were elected by their corporations to membership after nomination by the conference on June 14:

Schools Corporation

Mr. Raymond Jacobson,* Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Mentor, Minn.
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak.
Mr. Donald Carter, Lake Stevens, Wash.
Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.
Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.
Rev. Gary Skramstad, St. Paul, Minn.
Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.

Missions Corporation

Mr. Paul Flaten,* Newfolden, Minn.
Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn.
Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn.
Mr. Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn.
Rev. Stephen Odegard, Eugene, Ore.
Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.
Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.
Mr. Bernard Dalager, Wannaska, Minn.
Rev. William Moberg, Ortley, S. Dak.
Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

*denotes board member

Evangelistic meetings . . .

4. *Families need to be straightened out.* Many homes are heading for break-up and ruin unless the Lord Jesus Christ is allowed to enter and restore love, understanding, and healing.

5. *To prepare people for living victoriously and dying triumphantly.* When a person is ready to die, he is ready to live. History shows that cultures which lose the belief in the immortality of the soul increase in social problems, immorality and crime. A social gospel without repentance of sin will not change social conditions. When a person has confessed and turned away from his sin and is brought into a right relationship with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, his life will have new meaning and purpose.

6. *To Strengthen and edify the church as well as its members.* Remember this—the church is not a building, it's people. *You* are the church! The church is only as strong as its individual members. Before a person is saved, the church is a chore and a bore, and he supports the church with leftovers in time, money and talents. As a result of new life in Christ, he cherishes the fellowship with other believers, finds worship meaningful and is strengthened spiritually by personal involvement in its various ministries.

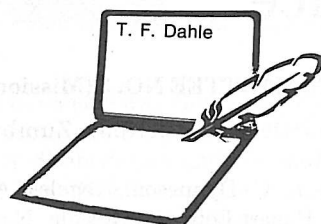
7. *To challenge Christians to full surrender to Christ* (Rom. 12:1-2). God cannot use a lukewarm Christian; He cannot bless a half-hearted commitment. Willing surrender of all we are and have to the control of Jesus Christ is the necessary step in order to experience His joy, peace, guidance and power in our lives.

8. *To arouse the church to its responsibility of being a lighthouse for Christ in the community.* We are not saved to sit, but saved to serve. The world does not need pew-warmers but soulwinners! Christ's command is clear: "Ye shall be My witnesses. Go ye . . . As my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." If we do not warn the wicked of their sin, their blood will be required at our hand (Ezek. 3:18). Every Christian has a work to do. Every church has Christ's commands to obey. We must pray for Christ's love for people and a burden for souls that will result in action to get the Gospel out in every way we can.

—Herbert L. Franz

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The Grace of God

"For by grace have you been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the Gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

Many people ask, "What is grace?" It is something we get gratis. It cannot be earned; it cannot be gained in any other way than received as a gift, and that from God. The forgiveness of sin, that is grace. "We are saved by grace." Salvation is a gift. Jesus is that Gift. "As many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become the sons of God" (Jn. 1:12). "God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son." That was an act of grace by God. God did not love us because we were good, but in spite of the fact that we were bad. "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Who have sinned? "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). God is love, and also a God of grace. He is the only one who can forgive us our sins. "There is no other name under heaven—wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We all owed God a debt that we could not pay. God knew that, so He Himself came down to earth in the form of a man, and paid that debt for us, so we could go free. That was grace. God says, in Is. 43:25: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgression for My own sake; and I will not remember thy sins." The last words of Jesus on

Thoughts from Tryg

the cross were, "It is finished." He died in our place; that was grace.

That is the objective side of salvation; nothing more could be done from God's side. But subjectively, from our side, we have to accept that gift or be forever separated from God. How can we receive that gift? By faith, by taking God's promises at face value. "He that believeth, hath eternal life" (Jn. 6:47). Every human being is either under the grace of God or under the wrath of God. God's invitation is always, "Come." "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). And in Luke 14:17, "Come, for all things are *now* ready." God cannot come for us; we must do the coming.

We must come like the Prodigal Son, just as we are, dirty, filthy, sin-laden, and God will receive us, just like the Prodigal's father received him. What was Adam and Eve's sin? Unbelief and disobedience. They disbelieved God's truth and believed the devil's lie. They disobeyed God's command, ate of the forbidden fruit and lost the image of God. They were chased out of the Garden of Eden but immediately God came down and promised a way out, a Savior, "the Seed of the woman." "Where sin doth abound, grace doth abound yet more exceedingly" (Rom. 5:20). Praise God that "we are justified freely by His grace" (Rom. 3:24).

Trygve F. Dahle