

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 21, 1981

**In This Issue: More Conference News
Articles on Parish Education**



Photo by Johnson and Fugleberg

Rev. R. Snipstead, left, and Lay Pastor Gene Sundby chat at the Annual Conference.

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

by Pastor Harvey Carlson



The Bible—a Book of Prophecy

The purpose of this week's article is to underscore the very prominent place that predictive prophecy has in God's Word.

I have tried to choose my words carefully. By "predictive" prophecy I mean all of those places in the Bible where God reveals what is to happen in the future, in the future at the time when God's revelation was given. Many of the Bible's "predictive prophecies" have, of course, already been fulfilled.

In Bible usage, a prophet is often simply a spokesman for God and a prophecy is a message from God. But in this series we are concentrating on those prophecies (or teachings) which deal with coming events.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Examples from Genesis

A glance through the first book of the Bible will indicate the frequency of these predictive prophecies, as well as their scope and kind. We can take only a few samples.

What is the very first prophecy in the Bible? Certainly one of the first is this one in Gen. 2:17: "In the day you eat from it, you shall surely die." Here God revealed something about the future, that disastrous results would follow if Adam disobeyed God's command. And this sets before us one of the most common themes of Bible prophecies: *God's judgments follow when the way of sin is chosen*. Think of how many hundreds of prophecies concerning the earthly and eternal judgments of God are found throughout the entire Bible!

Another prophecy in Genesis, and a very well-known one, is found in 3:15: "He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

Many of you will agree that this is a prediction of the coming of Jesus ("the seed of the woman"), who will completely defeat Satan ("bruise you on the head"), but pay a great price in doing this ("bruise him on the heel"). Here we have two things found very frequently in the Bible: (1) prophecies concerning Jesus, and (2) prophecies concerning the angels, both the holy and the fallen angels.

A look at Genesis 15

Because of space limitations, we can only look at one other passage, Genesis: 15:13-18. Here God discloses to Abraham several things about the future. Note carefully the subjects included.

—prophecies concerning *Israel*. God reveals what will happen to Abraham's

descendants. (vs. 13, 14, 16). There are very many prophecies in regard to Israel in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Some are fulfilled: others are yet to be fulfilled.

—prophecies concerning *other nations*. God speaks of judgments to come upon Egypt (v. 14), and the Amorites (v. 16). Prophecies concerning various nations are very common, e.g., Is. 13-23, Jer. 46-51, Amos 1, Obadiah, Nahum.

—prophecies concerning *individuals*. God told Abraham what the future held for him (v. 15). So the Bible contains prophecies concerning Ishmael, Joseph, Josiah, Cyrus, John the Baptist, Peter and many others.

—prophecies concerning *geographical areas*. God says, "I have given *this* land" (v. 18), and "they shall return *here*" (v. 16) The land of Canaan is often in prophecy. So are specific cities (Jericho, Capernaum, and—many, many times—Jerusalem). And, there are a number of prophecies dealing with our entire earth.

Some Comments

(1) The scope of Bible prophecy is indeed broad! (2) Some prophecies are in clear statements: e.g., "your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs" (15:13); others are in picture language, e.g., "bruise...the head...the heel" (3:15). But, when picture language is used, there is reality behind the picture. (3) Sometimes the time element is included. When this is so, God carefully fulfills this detail also. "*In the day*...you eat...you shall die" (2:17); "they will be enslaved *400 years*" (15:13). (4) This series will concentrate on prophecies concerning Jesus (at His return), but these will unavoidably intermingle with other subjects of prophecy—judgment, the angels, Israel, etc.†

There is something you can do

A Sunday School in Service

by Mrs. James Foster
Fosston, Minn.

Little children fidgeting on chilly folding chairs all trying to win the much-prized seat by their teacher; classes meeting wherever there was a quiet corner or unused space, be it a balcony, the coat room or the kitchen; nervous anticipation the night of the Christmas program; memorizing Bible verses and the Catechism; a special teacher bringing Bible stories to life. Special memories of Sunday School.

I remember lighted candles, a sudden quiet and the words spoken each Sunday from Psalm 100 as opening worship began. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!" And then from Psalm 122, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Perhaps therein lies the essence of Sunday School—serving the Lord with gladness; serving the Lord by sharing the good news of His forgiveness, redemption and salvation; sharing the joys of an abundant life in Christ with others. One generation instructing the next generation in the Word of God, emphasizing Christian values, and training in the doctrines of the Christian faith. Each generation concerned for the spiritual education of its children, the congregations of the future.

Sunday School is so vital to the continued spiritual growth of a congregation. In our homes we seek to instill in our children ancestral heritage, keeping alive the traditions and legacies of generations past to insure their continuation in the future. So it is with Sunday School. But the investment is for not a generation's time, but for all eternity. The congregation from youngest to eldest united in the study of the Word is an alive congregation, filled with the power of the Spirit, serving

the Lord.

A Sunday School teacher has a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord, to share the teachings of Christ, to tell of those Old Testament men and women chosen and used by God to lead His people and further His kingdom, to see the seeds of the Word grow and blossom in a child. God has commanded us, in Deuteronomy 6, to diligently teach the words of our Lord to our children. "Talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7).

As parents and members of the family of God we are charged with an awesome responsibility. The responsibility for Christian education begins at home. Sunday School is a formal continuation of the ongoing instruction initiated by parents.

A new Sunday School year approaches. Christian education boards are seeking teachers. Accept the call from God and you not only have the special joy of being led by the Spirit to share your faith in Christ and the knowledge of His Word, but you can experience renewal and growth in your personal relationship with God. Learning is a lifelong endeavor. We never reach the ultimate bit of knowledge beyond which there is nothing undiscovered or realized. A teacher continues to discover the hidden treasures of the Word with his or her students.

"But I can't teach," you say. Teaching is merely sharing what you know because you feel the information is worth telling. Jesus' disciples manned fishing boats, collected taxes, were everyday citizens. They possessed no profound understanding of religious doctrine, no polished speaking abilities, no specialized training in techniques. But each accepted the invitation from Jesus to "follow Me!" And

later, filled with the Holy Spirit, they proclaimed the good news of salvation, the message of a risen and triumphant Lord to a people in need. They served their Master. God has given each of us the same command and privilege.

As Sunday School is an experience in Christian growth for the teacher, so it is for the student. Likewise as Sunday School is an experience in service for the teacher, so it can be for the student. The primary function of the Sunday School must always remain the instruction in the Word of God and the tenets of the Christian faith. However, the outgrowth of a deepening faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior is a desire to serve and to share those Gospel truths—to witness.

There are so many opportunities for children and teens to witness and to serve. As parents, teachers and members of congregations concerned for the spiritual growth of their children, we can provide guidance, example and opportunity.

Rally Day, the start of a new Sunday School year, can be a special Sunday in your congregation. Every community has children not attending Sunday School or receiving any Christian education. And no Sunday School is too large! Plan a door-to-door invitation campaign in your community. Enlist the assistance of Sunday School teachers and students to identify and reach those children by creating and distributing invitations to them. A home visit or a telephone call coupled with an offer of transportation can make that contact even more personal.

Only a particle of time is spent in Sunday School class each week. Impress upon your students that as their paths wind through the days of the week, they can witness to their friends and neighbors of God's love and salvation through their actions, their words

and their example.

All ages are found in the family of God. As we grow older, the duties of maintaining a home, yard, or garden can become difficult or impossible to perform. There may be members of your congregation in need of the boundless energy of a teenager. Bring them together and let the Lord work His way.

Your congregations may have members confined to their homes, hospitalized, or residing in nursing homes. A Sunday School can remember them first in prayer and then in person. An after-school visit, a personal note on a birthday, a bouquet of spring flowers, a program of songs and Scripture all strengthen the ties that join us together as children of God. As God cares for all of our needs, both spiritual and physical, so we care for others. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).

As the Spirit of God works in our hearts, as we receive Christ Jesus the Lord, and as we "live in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith," the avenues of service widen. May we walk those avenues with the Lord! ✚

NOMINEES FOR EDITOR OF *THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR*

The following were nominated by the Annual Conference in June for the position of Editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador* for the coming three years (term beginning Oct. 1):

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Buxton, N. Dak.

Rev. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.

The election of an editor will be made by the Co-ordinating Committee this summer.

AFLBS Gospel Team

THE AMBASSADOR'S SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Here are the appointments for the Ambassadors, the nine-member Gospel team which is travelling in behalf of Association Free Lutheran Bible School. This year the group is presenting concerts under the title "Lutheran Heritage in Music," a program funded by Aid Association for Lutherans.

Itinerary

Aug. 2—Spencer Creek Lutheran Church
Eugene, Ore.

Aug. 6—Slim Buttes Lutheran Church
Reva, S. Dak.

Aug. 7—Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Eagle Butte, S. Dak.

Aug. 9—Calvary Lutheran Church (a.m.)
Bismarck, N. Dak.

Aug. 9—Our Savior's Lutheran Church (p.m.)
Dickinson, N. Dak.

Aug. 10—Lebanon Lutheran Church
Leeds, N. Dak.

Aug. 11—Zoar Lutheran Church
Hampden, N. Dak.

Aug. 13—Trinity Lutheran Church
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Aug. 14-16—AFLC Family Camp
Osceola, Wis.

Aug. 16—Chippewa Lutheran Church (p.m.)
Brandon, Minn.

Aug. 17—Our Savior's Lutheran Church
McIntosh, Minn.

Aug. 18—Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
McIntosh, Minn.

Aug. 19—Maple Bay Lutheran Church
Mentor, Minn.

Aug. 20—Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, Minn.

Aug. 21—Bethel Lutheran Church
Grafton, N. Dak.

Aug. 23—St. Paul's Lutheran Church (a.m.)
Fargo, N. Dak.

Aug. 23—Bethany Lutheran Church (p.m.)
Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Subscription Price to Go Up

The Annual Conference voted an increase in the subscription price of *The Lutheran Ambassador* per year of one dollar. Effective on Sept. 1, the cost per year to subscribers will be \$6.00.

The increase was made necessary by rising costs and a deficit of size over the past two years. The *Ambassador* also receives subsidies from the General Fund, Schools and Missions of the church, and grants from the Women's Missionary Federation.

Cookbook for Sale

A cookbook has been prepared by United Lutheran WMF in Greenbush, Minn. It may be ordered by sending \$4.75 postpaid to Mrs. Donald Christianson, Rt. 2, Box 117, Greenbush, Minn. 56726.

Improvements Made in McIntosh Church

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh, Minn., have been busy expanding and modernizing the basement of their church. By changing the heating system from oil to electric a larger dining and kitchen area was provided.

A well was drilled and a sewer dug, making it possible to put in bathrooms and kitchen sink with hot and cold water. The walls and ceiling were insulated, a suspended ceiling was put in and walls were painted. Prefinished cupboards and counter tops replaced the old ones.

The trim work on the outside of the church was given an extra coat of paint. In the future we also hope to carpet the basement floor.

Members of the improvement committee were Truman Rolf, Robert Hegland, Earl Roed, David Faldet, Mrs. Herman Voxland and Mrs. Erling Olson.

Mrs. Knute Jore

It's Time To Reach Our Children



by Miss Judith Wold
Thief River Falls, Minn.

"Good News! Good News! Christ died for me.

Good News! Good News! If I receive.

Good News! Good News! I'm saved eternally.

That's wonderful, extra good news!"

So went the lyrics of a song that we sang in a Bible Club class I taught about 20 years ago.

A few weeks ago I met a young man, Rocco, who volunteered, "Miss Wold, remember when we used to come to your house for Good News Club"? I responded affirmatively but did not ask what that meant to him now.

Not many days later I attended a musical presentation in the Methodist Church. To my surprise, the master of ceremonies announced, "Rocco will sing and accompany himself of the guitar." Up came that young father, a teacher by professional training, but now a railroad employee. After making himself comfortable on a piano bench, and having adjusted his guitar, Rocco, with a pleasant facial expression, sang into the microphone: "Dear Jesus, Thou Art Everything to Me," "A Rich Man am I," and "Why Isn't Everybody Singing Allelu?" My spirit soared and I leaned over to my partner and whispered, "How can anyone sing like that and not be a Christian?"

After the concert I simply had to have my curiosity satisfied, so I made my way to the platform. "Rocco, have you become a Christian"? I asked, after having commented on his sing-

ing. "Yes," he replied, "Shortly after I graduated from college I met the Lord." Then he went on to explain how his wife also was now a Christian. I'm still praising the Lord for His goodness. Some sow and others reap. Let us continue to present our Savior to the boys and girls.

The Bible clearly teaches that Christ Jesus calls the children to Himself. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke we read of Jesus' invitation, "Let the little children come unto Me, and forbid them not." Might we consider this as a contrast from Luke 14:23, where the command reads, "Go into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." Whereas many adults must be compelled to come to Christ, the children are eager to come if only we adults get out of their way and let them come.

The most favorable soil for sowing the seed of the Word is the plastic heart of a child. In Christ's parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23), the dry, stony ground which prevents the seed from taking root is a picture of the hearts of most adults, who are increasingly worldly, skeptical and materialistic. Modern society is interested in becoming smart and sophisticated, not in humbling itself to become childlike—the only attitude acceptable for the kingdom of God.

Early childhood's natural faith and dependency are soon outgrown. Said the prophet of old to his king, "As thy servant was busy here and there, he (my charge) was gone" (I Kings 20:40). Likewise, parents and teachers must often say regretfully to their King, "As Thy servant was busy here and there,

my charge, the child, was gone."

Faith is natural to a child, for complete physical dependence is accompanied by absolute emotional confidence. Just as children clutch firmly the hand of one who demonstrates love and understanding and yield themselves entirely to that person's care, so they yield themselves wholly to the Savior.

Habits of the first seven years are indelibly established. A child first makes his habits, then his habits turn about and make him. Nursery thinking lies at the back of much adult thinking. Many problems in adult life can be explained only by unfortunate occurrences which date far back into childhood.

Less time and effort are necessary to win many children to Christ. If the Christian church truly wishes to redeem the time before the Lord's return, she will send many workers where the children are to gather them in. Will we wait until gross sins of adults must be cured, when they might have been prevented?

Children have their whole lives ahead of them for service. We sometimes challenge boys and girls with the value of giving their whole lives to Jesus, by asking them if they would keep an apple and not eat it until it has rotted, or an ice cream cone until it melts, or a new pair of shoes until they are too small, or an automobile until it has rusted.

Yes, now is the time to win boys and girls for Jesus. Let us use every possible opportunity to impress upon them the need to have a personal walk with the Lord. †

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONFERENCE REPORTS

Co-ordinating Committee

As we gather here in Minneapolis in conference as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, we are reminded to rejoice and be glad that the Lord has made all this possible. What tremendous days God has given to minister the Gospel as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We can call them tremendous because of the hunger in people's lives for the truth. Therefore, it behooves us to remain faithful to the Word of God and let that Word be reflected in the lives of the people in our churches. It behooves us to use the days God gives to the best of our God-given ability. We must be alert to the opportunities God has for us as doors open, and realize the urgency and dedication needed.

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chm.

Director of Development

As we grow in numbers and spiritually, we naturally will have some problems, and our needs are greater in the Association. Here the Christian can be thankful for the privilege to serve and to give. I shared with you last year that about 80-90% of Christian people do not have wills and have made no preparation for the Church in their future plans. We must transfer ownership of our money, time and possessions to God if we desire a richer, fuller and happy life. And we must become more sensitive to God's direction in our giving.

Mr. Ernest J. Miedema

Dean of the Seminary

Jesus Christ, through our conference theme—"Behold the Multitudes . . ." (Matt. 9:36-38)—calls you and me, and all of us together, to the continuous need for Christlike vision, compassion and consecrated action. We need a renewed vision of multitudes of people headed for a lost and Christless eternity. We need renewed Christlike compassion for souls at home and abroad in order to stir us with renewed consecrated action in communicating

the saving and keeping Gospel of Jesus Christ. The priority program of the Church, until Jesus returns, is the communication of the Christian Gospel to every creature in every country. Surely God has given our Church a portion of the responsibility and privilege to be along in this greatest of all tasks. And a blessed part in this important task is what our Seminary is all about.

Rev. Amos O. Dyrud

Dean of the Bible School

So also, AFLBS seeks to cultivate the life of each student in such a way that a natural diffusion results in contact with the church at large. Leaven must spread to prolong its life, and the life of the Bible School student is to be active and infectious in its contact with the church. Bible School students need to be catalysts for life in our church.

Rev. Kenneth D. Moland

Board of World Missions

As we consider the mission of overseas work, let us look at a part of verse 38 (John 4), "We have reaped the benefits of their labor." We who are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the work of missions find comfort in these words. There is no established criteria for measuring the success of a mission outreach. We cannot assess our labors in any mathematical terms, i.e., dollars versus numbers. No, indeed, we cannot sit and count souls. Yes, it would be wonderful to report of untold numbers coming to Christ as a result of our endeavors as a missionary outreach. The simple fact is that numerical equations escape us during our deliberations. As we have increased our field operations from one in 1978 to four in 1981 we hear from you as you observe the different works. You quite naturally tend to make comparisons—one field or another advancing more rapidly than another—again quite naturally you ask why. We do not have the answers for the seeming difference in results.

Mr. Kenneth Williams, Chm.

World Missions Director

Every true child of God must pray for this same heart attitude of loving

concern, even to the point of weeping over lost souls, which our Lord demonstrated. Our Savior still reaches out His loving arms today to gather to Himself all who will trust in His atoning blood. While it is sadly true that many still do not willingly come to Christ just as in the days of His earthly sojourn, it is alas tragically true that many millions of people have never even heard the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. We as Christians must faithfully commit ourselves to the cooperative task of bringing the light of Christ to a dark world.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein

Board of Home Missions

Home Mission work is a calling. Being a pastor in a home mission work, being involved as a lay-person in a home mission church is a calling. It is not a job like working for I.B.M. or Standard Oil. The benefits are not the same, nor are the responsibilities. We are not called by God to be popular, rich, successful, or to "have it made." We are instead called to be faithful with our talents, our faith, and the message of God's Word. If we look at the ministry, home mission work, in any other way, we will become discouraged, and possibly bitter because life is not always easy for the servant of God.

Rev. David Molstre, Chm.

Commission on Evangelism

Matthew 24:43, 44, says we are to "watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come; therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh" . . . also, "Blessed is that servant (personal worker, evangelist, preacher, teacher or Christian) whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing." We are in the soul-winning business for our Lord and Saviour.

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Chm.

AFLC Evangelist

It is humbling for man to realize that he can do nothing for the Lord, but only present himself to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ must do it all. This is a great truth for me, being in the ministry of our beloved AFLC. The great blessings that the Lord has given us is

by opening doors, and not we ourselves. The Lord has made available many open doors of evangelism and the opportunity of ministering to believers within our churches this past year, and they certainly continue to be open.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti

Youth Board

The youth work carried on in the home is supplemented, not supplanted, by the ministry of the Christian congregation. Those persons in the congregation who lead such a youth ministry are often frustrated. They need the prayer support and encouragement of the entire congregation. They must realize that the success of their work is determined neither by the number of young people in their group nor the elaborateness of their program. Real ministry to youth is done "in the trenches" of sound Biblical teaching and living. It will not be showy or entertaining and thus will not be appealing to the crowds. But it will build faith. May God raise up in our congregations men and women with a love for God, a vision of the needs of youth, and a willingness to minister humbly and without fanfare to the young people among us.

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Chm.

Stewardship Board

Stewardship calls for full dedication. The stewardship of life is a life completely dedicated to God through faith in Christ Jesus. Martin Luther said, "If anyone would rap at the door of my heart and ask, 'Who lives here?' I would answer, 'Martin Luther once lived here, but Martin Luther moved out, and Jesus Christ moved in!'"

Rev. Ernest Langness, Chm. †



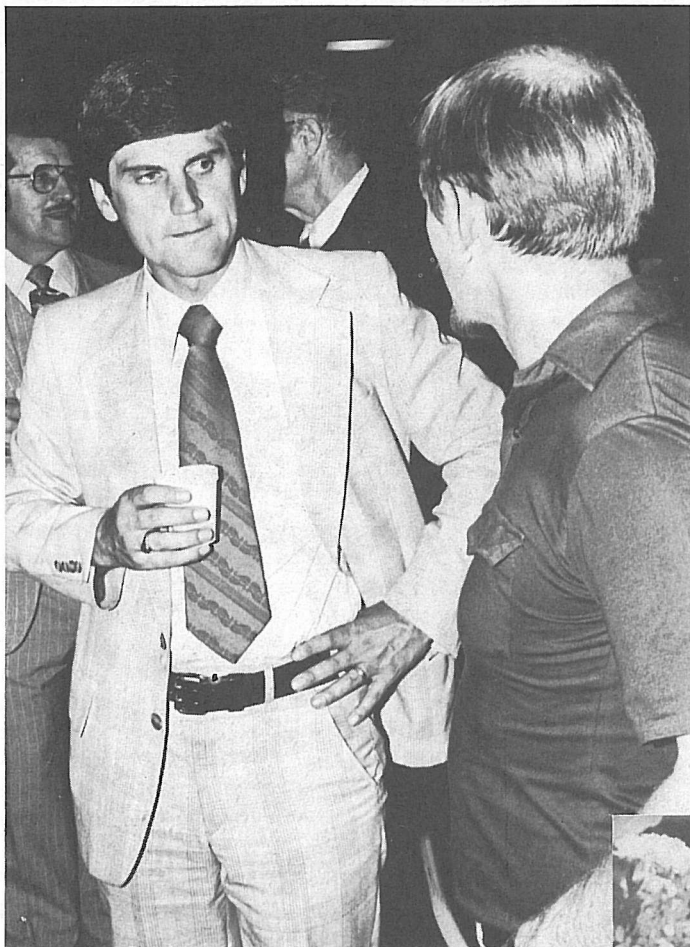
Scenes from the Annual Conference



Delegates approach the Girls' Dorm. The church is in the background.



Delegates await a conference session.



Pastor Kenneth Moland, dean of AFLBS



Pastor Amos Dyrud, left, retiring dean of the Seminary, chats with Pastor and Mrs. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Photos by Johnson and Fugleberg



Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hanson, Drummond, Wis., visit with their former pastor, Richard Bartholomew.



Mrs. John Mundfrom, conference pianist

editorials

REV. KARL G. BERG

Pastor, writer, administrator, all those words describe Pastor Karl G. Berg, who went to be with the Lord on June 21.

He had been a pastor for 42 years, serving in numerous places, most recently as a visitation pastor in our Kenyon, Minnesota, parish. I last saw him two years ago this spring when I came with the Choral Club on tour to Emmanuel Lutheran Church near Kenyon. He had just come there to fill in during a vacancy and was happy to be back in the parish work. He was later called to serve as visitation pastor under Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson.

My other personal association with Pastor Berg came when he was serving our two-point parish at Pukwana, South Dakota. We were to have our first district Luther League convention in the spring of 1965 and it was to be in his parish. And we had a fine time, the Arvid Hokonsons from Faith, the Bergs and I, together with a good group of young people, as we organized the district league.

Pastor Berg was a writer, a writer of devotional articles,

particularly. We utilized that talent in *The Lutheran Ambassador*. In 1964 he wrote the regular devotional articles, then called "According to the Word." In 1978 we had him write a series of shorter articles under the title "Snacks from the Storehouse." All of these writings brought much blessing to many. And there were other occasional articles. Pastor Eugene Enderlein, who conducted his funeral service in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, quoted from one of them in his sermon that day.

And then Pastor Berg was an administrator. For a while he was a rest home administrator. While I never saw him engaged in that work, we can be sure that he wanted a home where the spiritual interests of the residents received top priority, with the loving physical care needed. That would be the way he would want it.

So Karl G. Berg's work day is over. But he had a long and fruitful life, and was able to keep working to within a few months of his departure. The parting is not easy for the family left behind, but there is the blessed prospect of reunion in glory one day.

In leafing through some of Pastor Berg's writings my eye caught this paragraph in one of his articles, "Snacks from the Storehouse." Let it be a final word from him. "As I stepped aside that eventful night so long ago and let Him take over, so now I can rest in the assurance, as I keep close to Him, that He will live His life in me and through me, leading to moment-by-moment victory, as I allow Him *full* control. 'Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world'."

—Raynard Huglen

NORWAY PARLIAMENT OKs CHURCH-STATE CHANGES

Oslo—(LC)—Norway's parliament, the Storting, recently voted to give the (Lutheran) Church of Norway more independence within the existing state church system.

Under the new plan, church councils on all levels will be strengthened and given more power, there will be an annual church assembly with authority to decide on certain matters (such as liturgy), and diocesan councils will be able to appoint most clergy. (Bish-ops and deans will remain civil servants appointed by the government.)

Einar Førde, government minister of church and education, said he intends to "initiate this reform work right away."

Although many see the measure as one of the most important steps in a long discussion of modifying the state church system, debate on the plan was an "anticlimax," according to the church news service. "There were only scattered attempts to debate the prin-

ciples of the state church system," it reported, "and only a handful of the members of the Storting were present.

"The explanation probably lies in Norwegian society itself," it added. "The majority of the population wants to keep the church more or less as it is. This fact leaves the advocates of radical change as a minority, whether they argue theologically or politically. Those concentrating on the need for reforms within the present system are more easily heard."

RETIRING CHURCH AID HEAD REFLECTS ON PAST 35 YEARS

New York—(LC)—In 1946 Bernard Confer joined an organization called Lutheran World Relief (LWR), founded the year before to send food and clothing to the people of Europe.

Confer had recently been discharged from the U.S. Army, had served as a captain and had set up the public health and welfare system in the northernmost province of South Korea.

With this experience, plus prewar work with the National Youth Administration and the department of public assistance in his native Pennsylvania, Confer was ready—he recalls now—to "spend my life in welfare work."

His new employers at the New York-based LWR told him the job would last two years. Today, approaching retirement after 35 years with LWR—28 as executive director—Confer says with a smile: "They obviously misjudged Lutherans and their depth of concern. Even today, when we get the story to Lutherans, they respond."

In an interview, Confer reviewed his decades of work with LWR, during which the organization shifted its strategy from an original focus on European relief in the aftermath of World War II to the current combination of relief, rehabilitation and community development among needy peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

MORE ON THE CONFERENCE

For some years now each conference has seen the termination of long board service by one or more persons as the two consecutive full term limitation is invoked. That is true this year, too, as Pastor Larry Severson, Boscobel, Wisconsin, ended 11 years as a member of the Board of Home Missions. He has served long and well.

A tremendous amount of intimate knowledge of our Home Mission effort is lost to the Board and our church in his departure from the Board. But it is good that he remains a member of the Corporation and can share from his knowledge and insight there. Many thanks to Pastor Severson for his faithful service over the years.

Miss Judith Wold will be leaving her position as Executive Director of Parish Education in the AFLC this year, thus completing 12 years of efficient service in a very sensitive area of our church work. When a period of service that long is taken out of our church's history, it is all the more evident that she had much to do with the development of the Ambassador Sunday School curriculum.

Judith Wold has been a ready traveler, reaching out to many parts of the Association for Sunday School workshops and also on behalf of the Women's Missionary Federation. She has preached the importance of knowing Christ first of all and, in the next place, how the Association materials can be of benefit in the congregation's teaching ministry. We know that as a private citizen she is going to find ways to continue to serve the Lord and we wish her well.

Others persons have left positions on boards or committees this year, too, after lesser terms of service. The church's gratitude goes out to them all.

The Conference this year accepted the recommendations of the Budget Analysis Committee in full. The BAC had lowered the General Fund request by a minor amount and the World Mission goal by over \$28,000. The Board of World Missions protested the cut before the Conference (on the Conference floor), but to no avail. The fact that World Missions showed a balance of over \$21,000 must have influenced the BAC's action and ultimately the Conference's in approving the goal of \$218,880.

More and more we are tending away from speaking of "budget" amounts because in some cases, as with the Bible School and Home Missions, the requested amounts are considerably below the actual business transacted during the year, because those agencies get monies apart from the gifts from individuals and congregations. We rather like the term "minimum goals, the amounts needed to perform the minimum of God's work, apart from the other sources of income, not the maximum that could be done.

This year an ordination service was held at the conference. Ordination adds something. The whole church gets to share in the joy of sending out new workers then. We hope this practice will be continued as much as possible. Local congregations always have the opportunity to give their blessings to sons who go into the ministry. There is something good about men being ordained in the annual conference of the larger fellowship.

Rev. Karl G. Berg



Rev. Karl G. Berg

Karl G. Berg, who passed away on June 21 at Salem, Ore., from cancer, was born in Eidskogen, Norway, on July 14, 1903. He came to North Dakota with his parents in 1906 and they moved to Wannaska, Minn., later. He attended Augsburg College and Augsburg Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., and was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church in 1939. He served parishes in the LFC and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in Minnesota, Iowa, Washington, South Dakota and Oregon. He also managed nursing homes for the Good Samaritan Society from 1958-63.

On June 11, 1939, he was married to Olga Sovde of Strathcona, Minn. She passed away on May 13, 1961. On June 12, 1963, he was married to Helen Christensen at Silverton, Ore. They made their home in Silverton, Ore., but from time to time he served different parishes away from there. Most recently he was visitation pastor in the Kenyon, Minn., parish, living in Wanamingo. He left that position on Feb. 12 of this year due to his illness.

Funeral services were held for Pastor Berg on Friday, June 26, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn., with Rev. Eugene W.ENDERLEIN officiating. His sermon topic was "Prepare to Meet Thy God" (Amos 4:12c). Mrs. Gerald Berg was the organist and Mrs. Roger Berg was the soloist. Pallbearers were Norman Berg, Bradford Chase, Roger Berg, Sr., Gerald Berg, Jerome Berg and Lee Odell Bakken. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Thief River Falls.

Pastor Karl Berg is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Kenneth (Darlene) Steiger, Hibbing, Minn., and Elayne M. Berg, of Salem; one son, Allen L., of Salem; four grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Hilda Bakken, Clearbrook, Minn.; and two brothers, Oscar and Johnny, Wannaska, Minn.

Blessed be his memory. ☩



WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

By Rev. Ralph M. Rokke
Minneapolis, Minn.

I have never forgotten the explanation which my own confirmation pastor used to explain what confirmation is. He said that confirmation is like confirming a reservation at a hotel. When a child is brought by his parents to be baptized, a reservation is made for that child in the kingdom of God. The reservation entitles the child to a home in heaven. If the child dies while very young, he will go to heaven because he has been made a child of God in baptism.

If the child does not die as a baby but grows to the point where he is able to make his own decisions, then he must *confirm* the reservation that has been made for him. He does this by consciously trusting in Jesus as his Savior from sin and by publicly declaring his faith in Jesus. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

Confirmation instruction is aimed at preparing young people for *confirming* the reservations that have been made for them in baptism. The rite of confirmation, when the young person stands before God and the congregation and

publicly declares his faith, is intended to be a forum for him to confirm his relationship with Jesus.

What then is confirmation? It is simply to say, "Yes, Lord Jesus, I want you in my life. I need and want you as my Savior from sin. I want you as Lord of my life. I want you to guide every decision that I make in life, and I want to live for you." Confirmation is saying, "Yes, Lord, I want the relationship with you that my parents began for me at the time of my baptism."

Reservations, as we all know, can be cancelled. Airlines routinely overbook passengers for flights. Most of the time when they do so, there is no problem. They know by experience that many people make reservations which they do not keep.

It is possible to cancel the reservations of baptism also. If a young person decides that he would like to live his life on his own terms without Jesus, if he ignores the Lord and His Word and lives in deliberate sin, then he has cancelled the reservation made for him by his parents in baptism. He is lost.

It is possible to cancel the reservation even after having confirmed it on Confirmation Day. Sadly, many young people do this by viewing their Confir-

mation Day as a kind of graduation. They think, "Now I am done with that duty. I don't need to go to church any more. I don't need to think about the Lord any more. I have graduated from Christianity."

They have cancelled their relationship with God inwardly even while professing it outwardly. How sad! They, too, are lost.

Confirmation is not a graduation. Rather it is the beginning of an adult kind of relationship with Jesus Christ. It indicates that one has enough maturity to examine himself and so come worthily to the Lord's Supper. It indicates that one should be qualified to assume greater responsibilities within the congregation. It indicates that a person should be ready to take responsibility for himself to see that he hears and reads God's Word regularly and regularly takes part in Holy Communion.

Confirmation is nothing other than saying "Yes" to Jesus: "Yes, I thank You for dying for me upon the cross. Yes, I need You as my Savior. Yes, I give my life to You to use as You please. Yes, I want a place with You in heaven." May all of us, by God's grace, be faithful to those confirmation vows. †

Ladies Honored at Stillwater Lutheran

Andora Tutvedt, Ruth Horn and Anna Nordtome were honored for their many years of service in the Stillwater Ladies Aid, Kalispell, Mont. In connection with the Scripture which was read, their lives were noted for their faithfulness, example to others and steadfastness in love of God. Each lady was given a daisy corsage in recognition and in love. We thank God for them.

The three women honored at Stillwater.



REGISTRATION REACHED THE 400 MARK

Registration for the 1981 Annual Conference reached 400 on Saturday afternoon. Of that total 313 were lay delegates and visitors, while 87 were pastors.

Last year, at Valley City, N. Dak., 379 were registered. Three years ago, when the Conference last met in Minneapolis, an all-time high was reached when 496 persons were in attendance. A possible factor in that attendance record was the fact that a new president was to be elected at that time.

WINDS OF PEACE

Winds of Peace, a self-supported group under Lutheran Youth Encounter of Minneapolis, began its ministry in July of 1980. The team is composed of Paul and Becky Abel, David and Toni Dahlin (brother and sister to Becky), and Gary and Sherry Hauter. Our purpose in the U.S. was to heighten the awareness of missions and to encourage Christians in their faith as we traveled and raised support until the end of November. On December 2 we flew to Brazil where we would spend six months working with Lutheran churches in southern Brazil.

In order to best communicate our faith the team participated in an intensive two-week language study course with Missionary John Abel and two Brazilian teachers. Portuguese came fast as everyone had been studying since we got together in July. We had already begun learning songs and translating puppet shows into Portuguese.

Our first three months in Brazil were spent under the direction of the AFLC. During that time we were in charge of five Vacation Bible Schools, giving us contact with about 600 children. We spent four weeks working as Bible camp counselors. This was a great opportunity to share our faith with young people. We also did many programs in churches, especially on the weekends. Our team has done all sorts of other work as well, like painting, post hole digging, lawn mowing, kitchen work, or any odd job we could do to help out the missionaries.

Our time with the AFLC missionaries in Campo Mourão and in Curitiba was unforgettable. We had all sorts of different experiences including adventures in the mud with Connely Dyrud on trips to the interior, an excursion to Iguaçu Falls with David and Janet Abel, and a day at the beach with the youth group from Curitiba. We developed many close ties with the youth in our churches and believe God blessed their lives through us as He blessed us through their sharing with us.

In March we began a new aspect of our ministry further south in Brazil. We spent one week getting to know



The Winds of Peace, left to right, seated, Toni Dahlin and Sherry Hauter, and standing, Gary Hauter, David Dahlin, Paul Abel and Becky Abel.

evangelistic pastors and laymen at a big Lutheran renewal rally in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. We sang to and participated with over 1,100 Lutherans who are active in bringing their churches to a vital living faith in Jesus.

Most of the churches we visited in March were churches of German background. A couple of the churches still have regular services in German. We were very blessed by God to work with pastors who desire to see people have a personal and vital relationship with the Lord. We wish this were true of all the Lutheran churches in Brazil.

In one two-week period we made 36 presentations, all in Portuguese. God opened doors for us to sing in various public schools and many religious schools and orphanages. We are glad that in most cities we stayed about one week giving us time to see people more than once, thus building better relationships. It has also been fun to stay in Brazilian homes.

One week we spent at the Missouri Synod headquarters and high school,

having an opportunity to see what God is doing in their midst. There we met many young men planning to go into the ministry.

The second week of April we were involved in a boat ministry on islands off the coast of Paraná and São Paulo. We visited remote fishing villages on three islands bringing the Gospel to them in the form of song, testimony and puppet shows. The beauty of God's creation surrounded us in the jungle-covered hills, in the water shining with fluorescent plankton at night, and in the huge breakers on the beaches.

People everywhere have accepted and appreciated us and our ministry. We only wish we could have stayed longer and "tended the crops" of souls and seen the fruits of our labors, yet we know that for this God can use others. We must leave the results with the Lord and trust the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of people who have been touched by the message we brought.

—Paul Abel

The remaining portion of the summer schedule for Winds of Peace is as follows, in places of interest to AFLC people:

Wed., July 29—Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Thurs., July 30—Teien Covenant Church, Drayton, N. Dak.

Fri., July 31—First Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minn.

Wed., Aug. 5—St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn.

Sun., Aug. 16—Amery Lutheran Church, Amery, Wis.

The Winds of Peace are grateful for the financial and prayer support which they have received and which has helped to make their ministry a blessing to many. †



Worship in the Sunday School

*By Tony Stockman
Free Lutheran Seminary*

Praise the Lord for Sunday School! God has used it as a means for training in righteousness and for growth in the grace of Jesus Christ in countless lives. The blessings of Sunday School have filled heaven with praise and thanks from many hearts.

Personally, I look back and remember those years and see how very essential they were in my coming to know the Lord. I remember one special occasion when a small group of us, led by our Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Kamp, were asked to plant a bean seed in a small container.

We planted the seed and then she

poured over it a mixture of plaster of paris. The surface hardened and we surely thought the bean plant would never grow. However, to our amazement, the plant grew and pushed up through that hard surface.

Our teacher related this to the miracle of the Word of God and how it can grow in our hearts and push through the hard surface of sin. She went on to tell us that, no matter how hard sin has become, God's love is able to break through the hardest hearts.

When was the last time you thanked God for faithful Sunday School teachers? If you are a teacher, God help you to guide the children into worship and praise and into knowledge of the Word of God. †

Let's Go Visiting

By Kerwin Sletto, Free Lutheran Seminary

Sunday School has a ministry that is often overlooked. This ministry is visitation to the homes of Sunday School students. A teacher, because of his or her position, has an open door that most Christians don't have. This open door is a prime opportunity to witness about the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

To set up an appointment, a teacher should call first for a convenient day and time. Before you call, it is good to pray for the proper words. When you call, first identify yourself and your purpose in calling. For example, say, "Hello, I'm Betty Briggs, Charlie's Sunday School teacher, and I'm setting up appointments to visit my students' homes to get acquainted with their parents and to acquaint them with our Sunday School program. Would you be free either Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 3:00?"

On occasion, when a teacher tries to make an appointment, he or she may receive an unpleasant response. This should be taken in stride and not taken personally. Explain again why you

want to meet with the parents and if they still refuse, say, "Thank you for your time," and hang up. Go on to the next student. If you continue to push where there is resistance, it will do more harm than good. God will provide other opportunities.

Before you visit a home, it is always a good idea to pray. By visiting the home of a student, the teacher will see and hear the environment the child lives in. This is helpful because a child learns many things through the example of the parents. This is also an opportunity for the teacher to show his interest in the child.

When you visit a student's home, talk enthusiastically about the Sunday School program and what the child is doing in Sunday School. This would also be a good time to share with the parents what they can do to help their child remember his lessons. This gives the parents an opportunity to become involved in the program.

While at the home, be a good listener. Parents like to talk about their children. Let Christ's love and concern

shine through you. His love should radiate through the teacher.

It is important to watch the clock. No one wants to visit with someone whom they can't get rid of. As you close your visitation, as if you can have a word of prayer with them. This is important because it shows the importance of prayer in Sunday School work.

Visitation other than regular visits may be needed when a child is absent from class. The first time a child is absent, a telephone call is good. The second time, a visit would be better. This shows your concern for the child's well-being and that the child is missed. Another time to visit would be when new students are in class. This makes the family and the child feel welcome and a part of the church.

Visitation is an excellent tool for sharing God's love. It's a tool that is commonly overlooked, but can be a very effective ministry. Teachers, it is your responsibility to go out and carry on this important ministry. †

Memorization—Is it vital?

By Mike Klenner, Free Lutheran Seminary

The youth of the Christian Church have always been taught the Word of God by memorization. This teaching method was used in the Old Testament days and has been used since the time of Christ. With the advent of the Sunday School in the late 1700's, a part of the education process continued to be memorization.

Scripture tells us, in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." To train our little ones means to instruct them according to God's Word in the way of salvation. Knowing the way of salvation from youth causes it to be dear to them forever.

Memorization is a vital part of a Christian's life. During the early years of the modern Sunday School, the Catechism was widely used. It was used for two reasons: 1. It grounded children in the essentials of Christian doctrine, and 2. It imparted Biblical knowledge.

The method of learning the Catechism was memorization. Later it was

believed that if youth could memorize the Catechism, they could also memorize portions of Scripture. Thus the use of lesson material directly from the Bible for memory work quickly crowded out the Catechism from its place. The Catechism came to be neglected. Scripture is supreme, but the Catechism should be memorized, too.

The memorization of Scripture and other Biblical information, such as geography, books of the Bible, and individuals of the Bible, is most valuable. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy Word I have treasured in my heart." What a joy it is to know Christ and to have him and his Word dwelling within our hearts!

In an article in *Moody Monthly*, a writer told of her childhood Sunday School days and of the ribbons she had been awarded for her memory work. She said, "Though I've few childhood treasures, I still have my ribbons, and, should they be lost or destroyed, I'll always have my verses." She, too, had had God's Word implanted within her

heart, having learned it as a child.

All of us have done some memory work at one time or another in our secular education and/or in Sunday School. Most of us probably had to memorize more poetry or classic literature than Scripture, and how sad that is! It is not the things of this world that shall endure, but God's Word, and those who believe in Him shall inherit the Kingdom of God. We place too little emphasis on memory work in Sunday School and Confirmation.

When some of the United States prisoners of war came home from Viet Nam, they spoke of holding services when allowed, and of sharing Scripture verses with one another. These verses had been learned during their days of Sunday School and Confirmation. How happy they were to have God's Word hidden in their hearts! The enemy could not take it from them!

Let us, too, lay up God's Word in our hearts and let us encourage our children to do so in Sunday School and Confirmation. †

Our Children and Missions

By Pastor Rob Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight;
Jesus loves the little children of
the world.*

I can remember singing these words on Saturday afternoons at our local L.C.R. (Lutheran Children of the Reformation) meetings.

The emphasis was missions and our leaders made every effort to bring us to a realization that there was more to the world than just Calvary Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alberta. Through stories, songs and a variety of other activities we learned about a great big world that needed to know about Jesus.

Ours, for the most part, was a mission-minded congregation. The children were encouraged and invited to learn and participate in the mission

work of the church.

I remember various mission speakers who would come for a week of special meetings and Mom would make sure we were there for at least three out of five meetings. On one occasion we had Paul Lindell stay at our home and he had me spellbound with stories of his boyhood days in China.

As a young pastor, it is my prayer that the congregations I serve will be mission-minded ones. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He gave it not only to adults but to children as well. To grow up having the mind of Christ, children must be exposed to the fact that there is indeed a world that stretches far beyond the limited focus that childhood vision has.

Sunday School, mission band, Good News Clubs, these are just a few of the many excellent opportunities that the local congregation has to expose chil-

dren to missions. On more than one occasion, I have met a missionary who felt the call of God as a little child and realized the fulfillment of that call through fellowship and participation in a mission-minded congregation.

Christians without purpose and direction have missed God's mandate for Christian living. To know Christ is only half of what it means to be a Christian; to share Christ completes the picture. Through mission emphasis in the local congregation our children can come to the realization that every Christian is a missionary and that an unsaved world is our mission field.

I'm thankful that as a child we had a mission-minded home, a mission-minded pastor, and a mission-minded congregation. How important that our Sunday Schools teach the necessity of missions! †

Life on the Edge of Town



St. Louis, Mo.

A Rain Shower

My bags are packed and I'll be leaving for the airport and the beginning of my trip home before the morning is over. As I write, St. Louis is having a thunderstorm. A good shower is falling. Maybe this will relieve the heat we've been experiencing the past days, temperatures in the 90s and very humid.

The other night I stepped out of my hotel, the Mayfair, to get a breath of fresh air and it was just hot outside. That can make a person long for Minnesota and the Dakotas, to name a few places.

I have been here to cover part of the biennial convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the third time I have done so (once in New Orleans and here two years ago). Next time I will give some report on the business of the convention.

My World in St. Louis

Most of my time here has been spent in a relatively small area of the central city. The Cervantes Convention Center is just three blocks to the north. To get to it we cross Washington Boulevard, one of the main avenues of downtown St. Louis.

My hotel two years ago was on Washington. It is temporarily closed, but there are rumors that it will re-open this fall. Like the Mayfair, it is one of the great old hotels. Between them stands the larger Gateway Hotel,

which now seems to be a workingman's stopping place. Only a few of its rooms must be occupied. It is easy to see that downtown hotels are dependent on convention trade for any real business at all.

The Mayfair is very nice, attractively appointed and decorated. The coffee shop was changed over completely this spring and is a very nice place in which to eat. The main dining room, dimly lit, is out of my price range.

For my evening meals I've gone to Miss Huling's Cafeteria, a few blocks west of the Mayfair. Other convention people have found their way there also. A good selection of food is available and the atmosphere is nice. Pope's Cafeteria, across the street from the Mayfair, has closed since I was last here.

Downtown St. Louis doesn't offer much in the way of shopping. When you have been in the two big department stores, Stix, Baer and Fuller, Famous Barr, and Woolworth's, you've seen most of the action. They are found in a stretch of three blocks. The department stores are good and I ate noon lunch one day in the restaurant at Famous Barr. Woolworth's is a busy, crowded place, narrow aisles, places to eat.

Concordia Seminary

Again this year I took the noontime

tour of Concordia Seminary in the suburb of Clayton. Our group ate dinner in one of the cafeterias. Also saw the chapel for the first time and was surprised by that. Had expected a more impressive place. The chancel had more the appearance of a stage than of a church chancel. The chapel was not as large as one might expect either.

Our Rev. Philip Haugen is studying at Concordia this summer, but I didn't see him.

It was of special interest to see the re-created office of Dr. Walter A. Maier, famed speaker on the Lutheran Hour, at the Concordia Historical Institute on the campus. Also to have in our tour group, Rev. Eugene Berterman, who worked so closely with Dr. Maier in the production of those programs which "brought Christ to the nation."

The Convention

I don't know how you are, but I get a feeling of sadness as I leave a convention where I've spent some days. You live and work together and get to understand better how things work and what people are trying to accomplish.

Yesterday (July 9) a Dr. Koehneke gave a very fine talk in what is called the Essay. Just hearing that made the trip here worthwhile for me. He talked about how the Christian is a citizen of heaven and spoke of the anticipation of getting home to heaven and the blessedness of hearing the Lord's welcome over there.

Missouri Lutherans work hard and long at their conventions. Almost always they have been able to discuss their differences in good spirit. We are not Missourian and never will be, but I have enjoyed these opportunities to be at several of their conventions.

So goodbye to St. Louis, this city near the confluences of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. I don't know if I shall ever get back here, but it will always have a place in my heart.

—Raynard Huglen

LIGHT ON THE WAY

THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts (II Peter 1:19).

You have no doubt heard the story of the mother who, at the approach of twilight, always lighted a candle and set it in the window where it burned all night. For this mother had a daughter who had left home and had gone astray. And she hoped that, sooner or later, through the grace of God her daughter would come to herself, as did the prodigal son, and return home. So she kept that candlelight always in the window as a signal to her wayward child, that the door of her home was always open, and that her mother was waiting to receive her with open arms, if she would only come home.

It was such a light of love and forgiveness which led the sinful woman to venture into Simon's house, directly into the presence of Jesus, where she found pardon and peace.

How strange is this light of love! While it is more powerful than anything else, it is still so soft and inviting. It calls upon us to follow it as it lights the way homeward. For you also this

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light shines through God's precious Gospel, and you do well to give heed to that light as you walk through the darkness of difficulties and temptations. For eternity is long—fearfully long—for him who scorns this guiding light, and chooses to live in darkness.

If you live without God, I know that you are not happy. But God wants you to be happy. Then return home to Him, and happiness is yours. I hear someone say, "Oh, yes, if I only could—if God would receive me!" My friend, how can you doubt that God will receive you? Isn't the light there for you in His window—the window of grace? God's father-love has placed it there to tell you that the door is open,

and that your Father waits for you. Then come!

Perhaps there is someone near and dear to you who has drifted away from his God, and now walks the paths of sin. Then pray unceasingly, keep the light in the window burning brightly. Let the light of God's love and pardoning grace be reflected in your life, and the prodigal will find himself drawn by an irresistible force back to God and home.

Lord Jesus, let me see the light of Thy love, and give also unto me some of that love! †

Søren Dahl

(Courtesy, Tract Mission)

Thy Kingdom Come

"Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15).

In a way it is strange to think of Paul standing with one foot in the grave saying this about himself. If he had said that he once was the greatest sinner, one could have considered the statement reasonable. But that he says this now, with a long Christian life behind him—he who was one of the holiest men on earth—that sounds remarkable to many.

But thus it reads, and he has said it himself. And why should it not be so? All who in truth are holy, and who see themselves face to face with God, always come more and more to the same

conclusion as Paul. In the fellowship of God we get to see deeper down into the abyss of sin that dwells in our nature, but we also see farther into the depths of the grace that God has given us in Christ. He who considers nothing in his life as sin except what every man might lay his hand on, he has too high an opinion of self, and too low an opinion of God. But he who lays God's yard-stick on his life, on thoughts, desires, and disposition, how can he fail to become a great sinner in his own eyes?

But when at the same time he appropriates Christ as his all before God, then he praises Him who saves sinners.

If we were more upright in looking both at ourselves and at Christ, we

would be more humble, happy, and thankful Christians.

O depth of mercy, can it be
That gate was left ajar for me?
Canst Thou still love my wayward
soul?

Then take me, Lord, and make me
whole. †

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Chief of Sinners