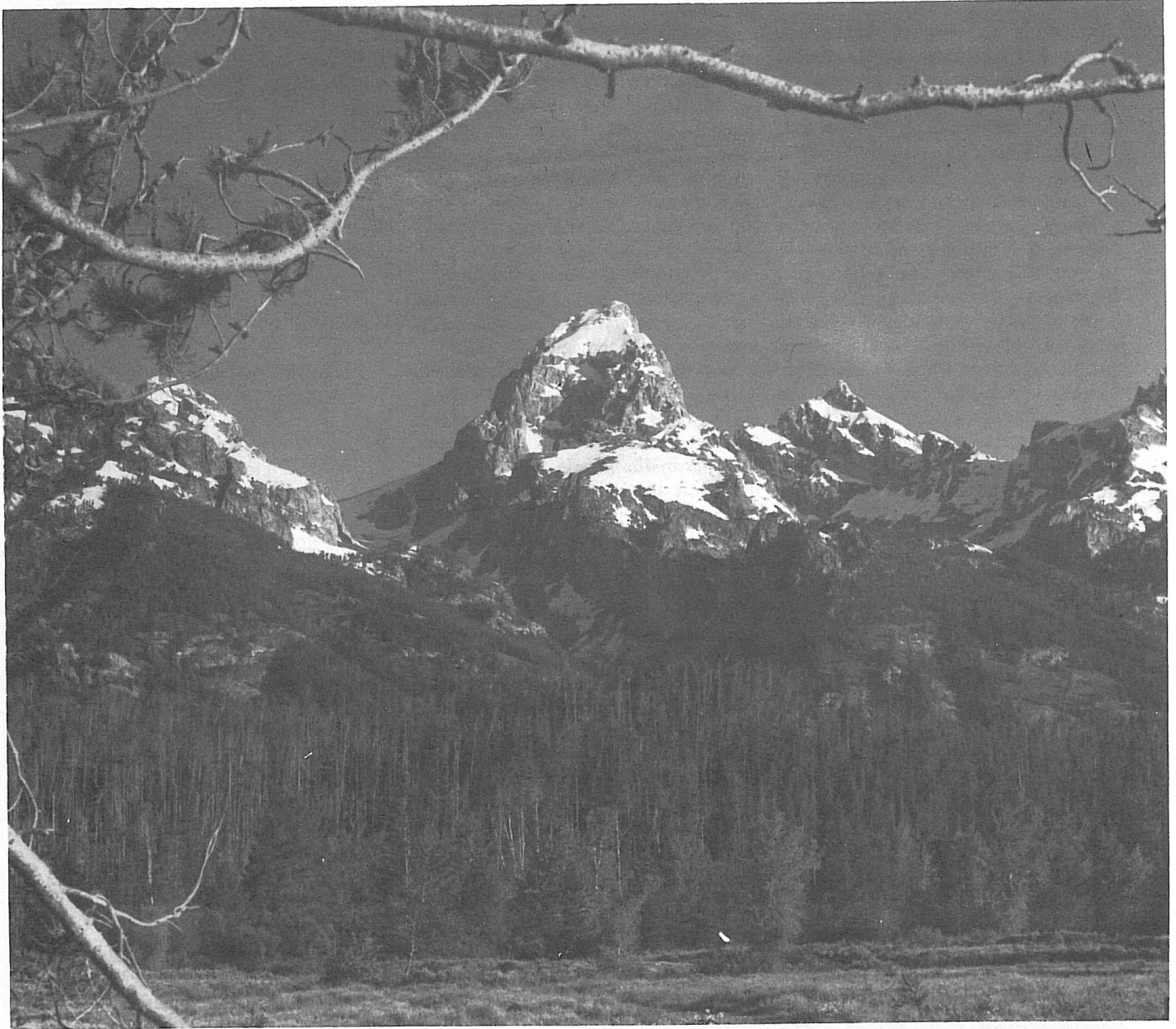

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 22, 1980



The Grand Tetons, Wyoming

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

REVIVE US AGAIN! p. 3
More from last month's Conference

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Ralph M. Rokke



The Greatest of These is Love

In one of my psychology classes in college I had a professor who was an atheist and a materialist. Materialists deny that men have souls or that there is any kind of spirit-life or spirit-world. This professor, nevertheless, told in class about studies on the importance of love to human well-being.

He told how psychologists compared the growth of orphans who were kept in two very different kinds of orphanages. In one orphanage the children had their physical needs met, but, more than that, they were also held, spoken to, sung to, and caressed. In other words, they were shown love. In the other orphanage, due to overcrowding and understaffing, the children's physical needs were met, but they were given no signs of love.

The psychologists discovered a remarkable thing. The children in the orphanage without love did not grow as well as the children in the orphanage with love. They were retarded both physically and emotionally. Also the mortality rate was much higher in the orphanage where the children received no individual attention or affection. Many of the children were actually dying because they were starved for love.

People need love. No matter what age we are, everyone of us needs someone to love and someone to love us, and above all we need the love of God in our lives.

The Bible gives love a supreme place in the character that God wants to develop in His people. The first characteristic that is mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 as being a part of the fruit of the Spirit is love.

Jesus was once asked what the greatest law was, and He answered, "Thou shalt *love* the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Then He also gave the second greatest commandment. He said, "Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39).

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you that ye *love* one another . . ." (John 13:34). He also said that love among Christians would be a sign to all men that the Christians were followers of His.

In I Corinthians 13:13, the Apostle Paul writes about faith, hope, and love, but he says, "... the greatest of these is *love*."

Think of it! Love is even greater than faith! The Bible tells us that we are saved by faith, so we know that faith is a great thing. Once we are saved, however, God has something even greater to produce within us, and that is love.

Recently a small act of kindness was done for me by another Christian. I had dropped an article and though this Christian brother was himself busy and had his hands full, he stooped down, picked it up, and very humbly returned it to me.

His action was not done just to impress me. He was not trying to "show off" a servant spirit. What he did was simply a spontaneous gesture that flowed from a loving heart and his love was contagious. It made me want to live with more of that same spirit.

True godly love is always active. It cannot help but show itself. One poor Christian widow who wanted to contribute a small amount of money to a Bible society was asked if even her small gift was not too much for her to give. She replied, "Love is not afraid of giving too much."

Dear reader, the greatest love of all, gave all, for you and me. Jesus Christ, God's Son, laid down His life for us. He was not afraid of giving too much.

Let us respond in faith to His love. Then, when we are justified by faith, let us show forth the love of God in our lives, for, as I John 4:7 says, "... everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Amen. ☩

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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

All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

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

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

Volume 18, Number 15
USPS 588-620

by Pastor Donald Greven
Radcliffe, Iowa

If there ever has been a time when revival was needed, certainly it is today. All around us, and within our own hearts, there is a tendency and a temptation to "get drowsy" and fall asleep spiritually. Jesus told us in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, found in Matthew 25, that in the last days, just before He returns, a great heaviness or sleepiness will overtake the church, including the Christians. He said, "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, *they all* got drowsy and began to sleep" (Matt. 25:5). You will notice that even the "wise" virgins were sleeping when they should have been wide awake, awaiting the return of the bridegroom.

It is because of this fact that you and I need to be living in a state of continued revival. The dictionary very aptly defines being revived as a "return to consciousness or life; to return from a depressed, inactive, or unused state." When we talk of revival, we must realize that it is we who have experienced salvation who are in danger of becoming inactive, unused and spiritually unconscious or sleepy to the point of spiritual death. Pastor Laurel Udden, Director of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, reminded us in the January, 1980, issue of *Evangelize*, "Revival is renewing the spiritual life that is already there, but is weak and anemic. It is the *Christians* that need to be renewed."

The question we want to deal with in this article, then, is, "How can we who know the Lord be revived?" The answer, of course, is that we must deal honestly and harshly with the sins that have "put us to sleep." I would like to share with you four basic sins that Satan has used most effectively to lull Christians into a state of uselessness or

"The answer . . . is that we must deal honestly and harshly with the sins that have 'put us to sleep.'"

"A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God."

Charles Finney

worse. It is only as we recognize these in our own lives, and bring them to God with broken hearts to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, that revival will be our daily experience.

Dual Allegiance

First of all, too many who call themselves Christians are trying to serve two masters, Jesus and self. This dual allegiance manifests itself in three ways:

1) A lack of love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said to the Ephesian church, in Revelation 2:4, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." How tragic it is—and serious—when professing Christians no longer love the Lord as they used to, when the things of God no longer thrill their soul to the extent that Christ is seen in their life. Can you honestly say today with the hymn-writer, "If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus, 'tis now"? If not, Jesus gave the only solution to your serious condition when He said, "Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first" (Rev. 2:5).

2) A lack of brokenness over sin. How quickly the old nature seeks to defend sin in our lives! Roy Hession warns us in his book, *The Calvary Road*, that if we are to live in a right relationship to Christ, then "the first thing we must learn is that our wills must be broken to His will. To be broken is the beginning of revival." He goes on to explain that "brokenness in daily experience is simply the response of humility to the conviction of God." Instead of defending our sin, we must confess it, realizing that we have grieved our Savior by our sin.

3) Over-attention to the things of this world. God's Word plainly tells us, "If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

REVIVE US AGAIN!

That passage goes on to remind us that "the things of the world" are not only material things, but also a self-seeking popularity with, and acceptance by, those who do not love the Lord. How quickly Satan would have the Christian lose sight of the fact that he is a pilgrim in this world, and that his citizenship is in heaven.

Lack of Concern

Now the second basic sin that we as Christians need to be revived and rescued from is a lack of prayer and a lack of love, for those individuals we know, who are lost. The apostle Paul testified that he had great sorrow and unceasing

18th Annual Women's Missionary

THE CONVENTION

The Annual WMF Convention brought us back to Valley City, N. Dak., where we had met ten years ago. This year we used the Valley City State College facilities, including the cafeteria, where we enjoyed such good fellowship over many delicious meals.



Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Buxton, N. Dak., opened our Prayer Service with Ps. 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." All of us have common and individual needs which the Lord can supply if we ask in faith. James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults to one another, and *pray* for one another. . . . The *effectual fervent prayer* of

a righteous man availeth much." Matt. 18:19 and Jn. 14:13 tell us "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." Our sole purpose in meeting should be to glorify God. We always need more prayer warriors and witnesses at home and on the mission field. In Matt. 9:38, we read, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, WMF president, welcomed us to our special WMF Day. Mrs. Tony Davis, Tioga, N. Dak., led the singspirations for all of our WMF sessions. Mrs. Clifford Iverson, Tioga, was the accompanist. We sang songs of love for God and obedience to His Word in keeping with our theme which was: LOVE GOD . . . OBEY HIS WORD." Our theme song was "Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus." We sang several choruses as rounds. The

Mrs. Melvin Walla led the memorial service with district WMF presidents participating.

Poor Fellowship

REVIVAL . . .

grief in his heart for his brethren who had not come to Christ for salvation. He wrote, "My heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation" (Rom. 10:1). But too often we are as Charles Finney said, "Sometimes Christians do not seem to mind anything about the wickedness around them. Or if they talk about it, it is in a cold, and callous, and unfeeling way, as if they despaired of a reformation: they are disposed to scold at sinners—not to feel the compassion of the Son of God for them. But sometimes the conduct of the wicked drives Christians to prayer, and breaks them down, and makes them sorrowful and tender-hearted, so that they can weep day and night, and instead of scolding and reproaching them, they pray earnestly for them." May God revive every Christian to this kind of compassion!

The third reason we need revival today is because there is a lack of desire for fellowship among Christians. Have you noticed in your own life how easy it is to plan time for trips for business or pleasure, but how hard to set aside a day or two for Christian fellowship, or a week at Bible Camp? When we find that to be true in our lives, we need to be revived. The hymn-writer described the condition of the church today all too well, I am afraid, when he wrote, "Room for business, room for pleasure, but for Christ the Crucified, not a place that He can enter in the heart for which He died." God's Word warns us about neglecting the fellowship, and reminds us, "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24-25).

Disregard for God's Ways

The fourth reason we need revival today is that there is a disregard for the ways of God among professing Christians. All too often God's Word is not upheld and claimed as the only infallible rule for both doctrine and daily living. Today many are being lulled to a spiritual death and heartaches here on earth because they have forsaken the ways of God in their daily lives. We need to be reminded that the early Christians were called followers of the Way. Can the same be said of us? If not, we need revival in our own hearts. Finney said, "A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God." God in His Word has given us clear direction, not only on how to be saved, but also how to live. To disobey in these clear areas of practical living is sin, and must be dealt with as such. Only then can God revive us in our love and devotion to Him. ✝

Federation Convention Report

auditorium echoed and re-echoed with praise for His goodness and mercy.

Mrs. Eldwyn Van Bruggen, WMF president of Grace Lutheran, Valley City, welcomed us to their city and to the convention. She announced that in addition to the two host churches, Grace and Zion, the Hampden, Portland, Buxton, and McVile ladies had also helped with the banner, table favors, centerpieces, name tags, etc. We sincerely thank these women for sharing in the work. Dr. and Mrs. Warren Jenson of Valley City invited the ladies to visit their beautiful home, filled with antiques, and to enjoy coffee and sweets following the afternoon session. This was an interesting change in the schedule and we thank the Jensons for their thoughtfulness and hospitality.

An important part of WMF Day is our business meeting. Mrs. Enderlein welcomed each one to be a part of this meeting. She asked for a show of hands for "first timers," and for quite a number this was a first experience. We trust that you were encouraged to be "regulars" from now on.

Mrs. Curtis Emerson, Valley City, favored us with a solo, "Nearer, Still Nearer."

This year we were privileged to have our present Bible study writer, Mrs. Harvey Carlson, Frand Forks, N. Dak., as our Bible study leader. Her study was based on John 14:23, our theme verse, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." She

touched briefly on each chapter, emphasizing God's call to us from the Gospel of John, practical help to respond to this call, and blessings that will come. The Gospel of John is called the heart of the Gospel. John was a humble man, the disciple whom Jesus loved. John 20:30-31 are two key verses giving John's reason for writing: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."

Love for the Lord is "life in His name." It is peaceful, yet we must suffer much. We need to rid ourselves of selfish pride, self-will, jealousy, anger, impatience, an unforgiving spirit. Only Jesus can cleanse us from these hindrances. We need to open the door of our hearts to Him, to receive Him, obey Him, yield to Him. *He must increase, I must decrease.* Prayer is necessary in order to experience true living. Our lives must witness to others that Christ lives in us.

Mrs. Paul Bjornson, Mrs. Frank Johnson and Mrs. Ernest Miedema, all of Valley City, furnished special music.

The business meeting was held, at which time the proposed budget of \$52,000.00 was accepted for the year 1981-82. The Nominating Committee for 1981 is: Mrs. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn., Mrs. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minn., and Mrs. Reuben Wee, Granite Falls, Minn. The

1981 Resolutions Committee is: Mrs. Wallace Jackson, Wallace, S. Dak., Mrs. Sherman McC Carlson, Webster, S. Dak., and Mrs. Neil Rudebusch, Summit, S. Dak. Elections were held. Mrs. John Strand, Fargo, N. Dak., was elected 1st vice-president and Mrs. Kenneth Anderson, Kenyon, Minn., secretary.

Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls, Minn., led the memorial service, honoring our sisters in Christ who have departed from this life during the past year. She read from Ps. 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." The death of a Christian should not really be sorrowful, but rather a time of rejoicing, for now all earthly trials are over and our loved ones are home with Jesus.

Our afternoon devotions were given by Mrs. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak. She read from Phil. 2:5-13.

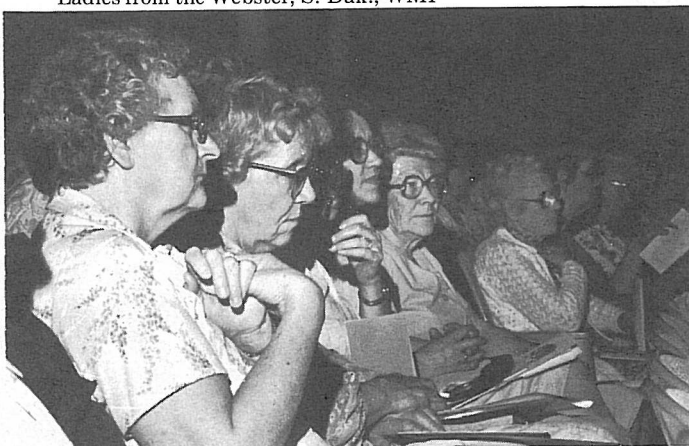
Following the adjournment of the business meeting, the Minnewaukan, N. Dak., trio sang for us, after which Mrs. Walla, one of the 1979 Bible study writers, was presented an Honorary Membership pin and certificate for which she graciously thanked the WMF.

Missionary George Knapp was our afternoon speaker. He brought greetings from Rondonia, Brazil. The fact that time is marching on and that time is running out is very evident in our daily news. Jesus said, "I come quickly." Are we ready and waiting for His coming? We have progress in our day but where is it leading us? Times are perilous. As time goes on, Christ's promises of His return become more real to us. What are we doing to prepare for that great day? Evangelism begins at home. When we are in tune with God's will when He calls us to witness, He will empower us with words to speak. *He is our power.* He based his message on our theme verse, John 14:23.

Mrs. George Knapp spoke briefly on their work and brought us her personal greetings, urging us to uphold the missionaries in prayer and with our gifts.

Cindy Alpert, Richardton, N. Dak., who spent a year on the mission field,

Ladies from the Webster, S. Dak., WMF



CONVENTION . . .

read greetings from our missionaries. We look forward each year to heraing from them at our convention.

The offering for Wednesday was for the General Fund. \$2,626.95 was received. This does not include gifts sent by mail. Two hundred eighty-six ladies were officially registered for the Wednesday sessions. Pastor Curtis Emerson, host pastor, dismissed us with the benediction.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thursday morning, June 12, we had our annual Fellowship Breakfast. Mrs. George Knapp led in devotions, reading from John 14:23-27, reminding us of God's promise to the obedient. *We must teach and keep His commandments.* The timing of the Lord in all things is always right. She told of their work in Rondonia. Illiteracy is the hardest thing to deal with and there are many false cults, enemies of the Word, that are working among the people. We must teach the truth and we know that, empowered with the truth of God's Word, it will prevail.

As Mrs. Knapp told of their work, we were able to picture in our minds the needs and duties of the missionaries. They are many. This should encourage us to want to pray more for them. They covet our prayers and do appreciate the prayer sheets and little notes you are sending. Mrs. Enderlein encouraged and challenged us to be more faithful in writing and to include little treats for the missionary children. Inflation has made it almost impossible for them to enjoy the little things our children take for granted. She also gave us further information on our mission fields in Mexico and India.

Mrs. Leonard Swanson brought a greeting from Nogales.

Our two new officers, Mrs. Strand and Mrs. Anderson, brought greetings and expressed thanks for the confidence shown in electing them. They, too, covet your prayers. There were 153 ladies present, five of them being past national WMF officers. Mrs. Enderlein dismissed us with prayer.



Thursday Prayer Breakfast

FESTIVAL SERVICE

The Festival Service was held Thursday evening, June 12. Cindy Alpert gave the devotions, reading Ps. 19:7-11 and 1 Jn. 2:24-25 which was in keeping with the theme verse, Jn. 14:23—love God . . . obey His Word. She thanked for the prayer and financial support as well as the correspondence she received while in Brazil.

The Paul Bjornson family expressed their deep appreciation for the many prayers and messages of condolence at the time of the death of their daughter during the past year.

Mrs. Donald Olson, Fargo, N. Dak., sang, "There Is No Greater Love."

Pastor David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., was the evening speaker, basing his message on Jn. 14:23. This verse tells us what Christianity is all about. It deals with two responses that we cannot in our own strength fully understand, namely: love and obedience. There are many answers to what love means to us and how we express it. To many, it is an emotion which often is temporary and then suddenly disappears. We live in a day when we want

freedom. Words like submission, obedience and faithfulness are not for many. They are bothersome. *Obedience, complete obedience to God, is necessary and is expected of the Christian.*

What is love? Many define it as a sentimental experience. For others it is a physical experience. Such people have a difficult time to know what love really is. A love dependent on outward circumstances fails so easily. *From a human standpoint, love is very imperfect.* We often take things for granted with those whom we love. To possess a love that is lasting, true and eternal is beyond our own strength. John uses the word love more than any writer. *Good deeds and sound doctrine alone are not enough for true love. It demands complete obedience to God's Word.*

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knapp, missionary candidates to Paraguay, sang, "Let Your Heart Be Broken."

Our offering for the evening was for Church Extension. Pastor Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., ex-

(Continued on page 8)

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, Mrs. Arlo Kneeland, Miss Judith Wold, Mrs. Reuben Wee, Mrs. George Knapp.



SAMUEL J. MILLS

the missionary who never reached his field

Perhaps you know that near Williams College, Williamstown, there is, this very day, a monument in the shape of a haystack, as a reminder of what took place once upon a time, under a real haystack, on this spot. Very early in the nineteenth century, somewhere about 1809-10, there were four young men in Williams College who used to meet together in a grove for prayer and conference. One day a heavy shower forced them to find better shelter than the trees afforded, and they took refuge under a haystack in a field near by. They were earnestly talking on this day about sending the Good News to the faraway heathen, and in the shelter of that haystack they pledged themselves to go as foreign missionaries as soon as the way should open. The best known of these four students was Samuel J. Mills, born in Massachusetts, in the town of Tolland, and now about 25 or 26 years old.

At this time, Mr. Mills, with the other three, came to Andover to enter the theological seminary there. Here they met young Adoniram Judson, who was just then looking for some way to be sent to the foreign field. But there was no Society or Board ready to send anybody to heathen lands. There was the Massachusetts Missionary Society, which was founded in 1799, but its work was limited to the North American Indians, and it could do nothing for these young men who wished to go to India, Burma, and Africa. At last, after talking over matters, and asking advice of others, besides making it a subject of earnest prayer, a paper was drawn up, telling their wishes, and asking support, direction and prayers from the ministers who were gathered at the time in what was called The General Association.

At first there were six names signed to this document, but, for fear the ministers might be alarmed at the thought of providing for so many, two names were taken off, one of them being that

of young Mr. Judson. The assembled ministers adopted a set of resolutions in their meeting, which finally led to the organization of a new Society, or Board, called The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, which, in due time, set apart the young ministers to be missionaries to go to far-off heathen lands.

Samuel J. Mills, who was the son of a minister, now began to look forward to a work in foreign countries, such as his heart had long been set upon. But after his graduation day, there seemed to be a great deal for him to do first in the home-land. He had been one of those whose petition had been, in part, the means of organizing a new Society to send out missionaries. Now he helped to start the Bible Society, which was as important as any Mission Board. Unless there were Bibles to take, and in the language of the heathen, how could messengers take them to those who had never heard the Word? So the Bible Society was formed.

The work of Home Missions used to be called Domestic Missions, and every one knew that this must be carried on, too, and Mr. Mills did much to help in the work at home. Then he helped to organize another Foreign Mission Board called The United Foreign Missionary Society. Next came the African School, under the care of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and Mr. Mills had his share in planning this work for the coloured people. The American Colonization

Society, which planned to send out colonies to other lands, now chose Mr. Mills to go as their messenger to Africa, and to choose a good place to send a colony, or company of Negroes from America to live in a land from which the first black people came. Mr. Mills had been a helper in getting this Society started, and now, at last, he was to go to the foreign field himself, and, in this way, make a beginning in missionary work.

Joyfully he set sail in a ship, but before he could carry out his mission, he was taken ill with fever. He was not very strong and the dread disease ran its course. The young missionary-to-be died on shipboard, in strange waters, on the 16th of June, 1818. He was only 35 years old, and had not been able to carry out the great wish of his life; but, after all, he did much for the heathen world in the organization of the societies that carried on the work he loved, and longed to share. Besides, this young missionary-to-be was so good—so earnest, loving, faithful, and enthusiastic, that others caught his interest in missions. Even today, when over (160) years have passed since his life's service ended on that ship in far-off seas, people are better for knowing the life, and hearing the story, of Samuel J. Mills, remembered still for the work he did.

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

OUR MEMORY VERSE

“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

Isaiah 6:8 RSV

CONVENTION . . .

plained this project. The goal of Home Missions is to establish 30 new congregations during the next ten years. The Tioga trio favored us with a medley of songs—"There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing," "Something Beautiful, Something Good," and "When I Met With Stress and Trial," and gave their testimonies during the offertory. The offering was \$3,184.00.

Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC President, installed the new WMF officers, Mrs. John Strand and Mrs. Kenneth Anderson. They covet our prayers as they assume their new duties, serving the Lord through the WMF. The outgoing officers, Mrs. Arlo Kneeland and Mrs. Reuben Wee, were presented gifts in appreciation of their faithful service. They expressed thanks and joy in serving the WMF, as well as the fine Christian fellowship they had enjoyed. Mrs. Kneeland, Mrs. Wee and Mrs. Harvey Carlson were presented Honorary Membership pins and certificates. As Pastor Snipstead dismissed us with the benediction, we left with a firm desire to show more love to God and our fellowmen, and to be obedient to His Word. Only then can we be fully used in His service.

Mrs. Reuben Wee
Secretary

Northeast S. Dakota women meet

The northeast area of the South Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation met at Hope Lutheran Church, rural Sisseton, on the afternoon of June 18. The theme verse was John 12:8. Mrs. Alvina Iverson, president of the local Aid gave the welcome. The singspiration was led by Saron Lutheran, Roslyn. Scripture and prayer were given by Buffalo Lake Lutheran, Eden, and the theme song was "The Light of the World is Jesus." Rev. Wallace Jackson of Wallace sang a solo, accompanying himself on the harp.

Our guest speaker was Anne Hansen of Lisbon, N. Dak., a former missionary to India. She used a slide presentation and answered questions afterward.

There was also special music by Ortle Lutheran. Pastor Howard Kjos, local pastor, closed the afternoon of fellowship and inspiration.

Myrtle Almos
Secretary

THE KINGDOM

On earth there is no embodiment or external manifestation of the Kingdom (of God); its power is seen in the lives of those whom it rules."

Andrew Murray

Maplebay cradle roll program held

The WMF of Maplebay Lutheran Church, Mentor, Minn., Rev. Bruce



Dalager, pastor, held its Cradle Roll program on June 5. A flannelgraph showing "The Feeding of the Five Thousand" was presented and several songs were sung by the Primary Department of the Sunday School.

Following the program a luncheon was served to everyone.

Shown here, are, bottom row, left to right, Ryan Broden, Mrs. Sue Johnson and Bradley, and Mrs. Karen Floan, Benjamin and Kelle; middle row, Mrs. Patti Broden and Aaron, Rachel Dalager, Michael and Joey Ness, Eric Skanson, and Mrs. Phyllis Pederson, Elizabeth and Rebecca; and, third row, Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Mrs. Marilyn Ness and Mrs. Bonnie Skanson.

Corr.

Whenever you are in a critical temper, it is impossible to enter into communion with God.

Criticism makes you hard and vindictive and cruel, and leaves you with the flattering unction that you are a superior person. It is impossible to develop the characteristics of a saint and maintain a critical attitude.

Oswald Chambers

Statistics on the family

One of the key issues of debates at the White House Conference on Families in Minneapolis in June was just what constitutes a family. Figures prepared for the conference by the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census show dramatic and often unexpected changes in family composition, attitudes and well-being.

- Two-thirds of all married adults report they are "very happy" in their marriages. One-third say they are only "pretty happy." Apparently those who were unhappily married have been divorced.

- Nearly half of U.S. adults surveyed believe obtaining a divorce should be more difficult.

- Despite predictions that women would delay marriage and child bearing, there is still no increase in the number of women marrying in their late 20s and only a small increase in the birth rate for women in their early 30s since 1975.

- There was a surge of marriages and divorces in the 1960s as the post-war baby boom came of age. Now the number of people getting married for the first time has dropped and the increase in the divorce rate has slowed.

- Fewer people are marrying in their late teens and early 20s. Marriage is postponed as they go to college, get jobs and establish separate households.

- Half of all married couples have no young children in the home.

editorials

UNEVEN DISCUSSION

In our notes from the Annual Conference last month we made the notation: "Home Missions—Almost no discussion of resolutions." Those who were present when those resolutions were considered on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning can vouch for the truthfulness of the note. There was almost no discussion.

There's no blame to be placed in regard to this, it's just the way it worked out. World Missions and Evangelism resolutions, considered on either side of Home Missions, drew considerable discussion, all to the good.

No one is to blame and yet it's too bad there wasn't inquiry made by the delegates to one point or other about this vital part of our common work. Big things are happening in Home Missions and future plans are ambitious and it's unfortunate that we didn't spend more time on it.

But in AFLC annual conferences one never knows what areas of the work will draw most attention from the delegates. Maybe the unpredictability is all right.

POWER OF COMMITTEES

Five resolutions committees present 95 percent of the resolutions which make up the business of our annual conferences. After reading the reports the committee members draw up resolutions for conference action.

Usually the resolutions are bland, predictable and non-controversial. Only occasionally do they really initiate anything. Most decisions in the church are made by boards and committees. And that's the way it has to be. So our resolutions often are ones of recognition and thanks or reiteration of something in the pertinent reports.

But now and then a committee shows a spirit of independence and adventure by proposing something that wasn't

expected. That was what happened at Valley City when Committee No. 3 called upon the conference to approve the calling of a full-time World Missions Director. The Board hadn't recommended it, but in looking over the growing work, the Committee thought it might be a good idea. Everything worked out as it should have, in our opinion. Approval wasn't given for moving immediately to add another full-time staff person, but the door was opened for the eventuality of a full-time Director.

We rather like the idea of conference committees venturing out on their own once in a while. They have the power to do so. The conference ultimately decides. But there is conflict, too, because we have argued before that major business items ought to be made known to the church prior to conference and not sprung upon a conference in session.

Perhaps the solution is that boards and official committees in the Association shouldn't propose matters of significance to a conference without advance information, but resolutions committees may show some independence, within reason, if the members of it act out of prayer and real concern.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS AND PRAYER

Sometimes someone asks for prayer suggestions concerning AFLC work. Quite a list can be drawn up from the conference resolutions of last month—both requests for prayer and a call to thank God for certain individuals and certain accomplishments.

Later on, when the 1980 Annual Report is ready, you may read those resolutions. Delegates to the conference have copies of them already. But even without them before you, many prayer suggestions and requests can be compiled by thinking of the various missionaries, foreign fields, home mission churches and pastors, personnel at the schools and headquarters in Minneapolis, WMF and LLF officers, etc. The list goes on. Did we forget *The Lutheran Ambassador* and its editor, the church evangelist and others?

Certain it is that more prayer should be offered to the Lord for our work together and for one another. The times ahead will call for that. The times today do also.

"The church kept praying fervently for him to God" (Acts 12:5, NEB). "Brethren, pray for us" (II Thess. 3:1a, Am. St.).

• The average couple now has more years together without children. Couples now end child rearing earlier in their marriages and are expected to live longer, adding to the time they live together with no children in the home.

• One-fourth of all households do not contain related persons.

• Nearly half of black mothers have no husband sharing their home.

• Three-fourths of all people in the U.S. live in married-couple house-

holds—a decline from 85 percent in 1960.

• From 1970 to 1978, the number of people living in households headed by an unmarried couple doubled.

• Older women are most likely to live alone. Two-fifths of women over 55 live alone. But there was a tripling from 1970 to 1978 in the number of men and women under 35 living alone.

• The number of children living with one parent rose from nine percent in 1960 to 19 percent in 1978.

• Three-fourths of all divorced women work outside the home, compared with half of all married women.

• In the last 30 years, the number of married mothers of preschoolers who work outside the home has tripled. One-half of single mothers with preschoolers are in the labor force.

• Family income (adjusted for inflation) rose by one-third in the 1960s, but rose little in the 1970s.

The Minneapolis Star

Committees for the 1981 Annual Conference

(as elected in
Valley City in June)

Nominating Committee

Mr. Ronald Strand, Kindred, N. Dak.
Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson,
N. Dak.
Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.
Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.
Mr. Reuben Moland, Fertile, Minn.
Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena,
Minn.
Mr. Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn.
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Rev. Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.
Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Ariz.
Rev. Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash.

Budget Analysis Committee

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.
Rev. John P. Strand, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena,
Minn.
Dr. Donald Priebe, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mr. James Bjorgan, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Colloquy Committee

Rev. John P. Strand, Fargo, N. Dak.
Rev. Karl Stendal, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens,
Wash.

Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.

Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Shevlin, Minn.
Mr. Comart Peterson, Tioga, N. Dak.
Rev. Richard Bartholomew,
Drummond, Wis.
Mr. Otto Kaschube, Brockton, Mont.
Mr. John Wire, Minneapolis, Minn.

Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, Cloquet, Minn.
Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.
Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon,
Mich.
Mr. Arley Brandvold, Greenbush,
Minn.
Mr. John Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.

Committee No. 3 (Missions, Evangelism)

Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson, Nogales,
Ariz.
Rev. Gerald Mundfrom, Osceola, Wis.
Mr. Walter Saarinen, Trimountain,
Mich.
Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.
Mrs. Laverne Thompson, Fergus Falls,
Minn.

Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education, Youth Work)

Rev. Jay Eberth, Chassell, Mich.
Rev. Dean Casselton, Zumbrota,
Minn.
Mr. Larry Stulen, Spicer, Minn.
Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.
Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minn.

Committee No. 5 (Stewardship, Pensions)

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn.
Rev. Merle Knutson, Newfolden,
Minn.
Mr. Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.
Mr. Ted Aasness, Doran, Minn.
Mr. Gene Froehlich, Kenyon, Minn.

Annual

Here are brief summaries of some of the sermons preached at the Annual Conference in Valley City, N. Dak., last month.

Opening Service—Pastor Amos Dyrud

His text was the conference text, Psalm 16. The real character of David is pictured in the Psalms and also the aspirations of the people are to be found there. In addition, the 16th Psalm has much of Christ in it. Christ is our holiness.

We have a goodly heritage in the AFLC. The lines have fallen in pleasant places. Together with these we have been given many open doors, but there are also many adversaries.

Pastor Dyrud quoted extensively here from the *Declaration of Faith*, a document coming from the beginning of the Association.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, he declared, and obediently follow Him. There is no other foundation for us. Let us be faithful where we are placed and live and serve without envy, bickering or brooding. We are to learn from Him who is meek and lowly in heart, the Lord Jesus, of whom David spoke in the Psalm.



Pastor Allen Monson

Corporation officers 1980-81

Missions
Chairman—Mr. Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.
Vice-chairman—Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.
Secretary—Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.
Treasurer—Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Schools
President—Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.
Vice-president—Rev. Bruce Dalager, Mentor, Minn.
Secretary—Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.
Treasurer—Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena, Minn.

Conference Sermons

Saturday Evening—Pastor Allen Monson

Pastor Monson spoke at the youth service on the conference theme: "The Lord always before me." Life is an awesome thing and man has a choice to make about it. Different choices have been made. For instance, Lot chose to live near Sodom and Moses chose to suffer with his people, rather than live a life of ease.

Something may stand between you and the Lord. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord won't hear me. Another barrier, Pastor Monson told his audience, is to listen to the temptation, "Has God *really* said?", questioning the authority of God's Word. But if people want final authority they will find it in the Bible.

God is concerned about inner life. Sin dulls life. A person doesn't usually fall into sin all of a sudden, but rather slides into it. The Lord forgives the repentant sinner and when sin is covered by the blood of Christ it is "out of sight." Finally, when we know God's mercy we are able to meet others in mercy.

Holy Communion—Pastor Kenneth L. Anderson

"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20b), that was Pastor Anderson's text for his communion meditation on Sunday morning at Grace Lutheran, site of all the Sunday services of the Conference.

He pointed out how Jesus came in His first advent and how He is with us today. Jesus meets us, too, in the Sacrament. In it, we remember *Him*. We do not come to the Lord's table to impress the Lord or other people, but because we need His mercy.

Sunday Morning Worship—Pastor R. Snipstead

Using the Gospel text for the day, Luke 14:16-24, Pastor Snipstead emphasized the part of the text, "All things are now ready."

God has made divine preparations

for the feat of salvation, which may be experienced here, and the eternal banquet feast in glory. It was a costly preparation because it took the obedience of His Son, even to death on the cross.

People gave excuses to the gracious invitation to attend, and still do. *Things* come first. And so the invitation goes out to others. No one can be compelled to come, but the message must be clear; then the Holy Spirit can work. The streets and lanes may be the Home Mission opportunities before us. The highways and hedges may speak of our world fields—India, Brazil and Mexico.

There is added urgency to come *now* and to invite others because of the nearness of the Lord's return. "Are we in the semi-finals of the last act?" Pastor Snipstead asked. We could well be. Let nothing be more important to us than eternal souls.

Sunday Afternoon—Pastor Kenneth Pentti

The Association evangelist used John 15:1-8 as his Scripture text and said by way of introduction that all books on evangelism are only means, for it is Jesus who produces fruit through the believer. He also reminded his audience that the Great Commission of Matthew 28 is an order, not a suggestion.

Pastor Pentti said that Jesus Christ shows us the way to effective evangelism and gave five points concerning this:

- 1) Jesus gave the divine initiative for evangelism;
- 2) He lived in a divine relationship—with the Father;
- 3) Jesus operated in the divine will;
- 4) Jesus was motivated by divine love; and
- 5) Jesus had a divine dedication to the people of God.

The best evangelism is to live the Christian life so that others can see that faith is real. "Are you letting Jesus live out His life through *you*?" he asked.



Pastor
Tim Skramstad

Prayer hours

The prayer hours at the 1980 Annual Conference were led by Rev. Timothy Skramstad, Minnewaukan, N. Dak. He centered his meditations on the subject of prayer.

On Thursday, he considered "the greatest hindrance to prayer" and said that it is unconfessed sin. Such sin may be in the form of a critical, unforgiving spirit. But God is faithful to forgive as we confess our sins. Forgiven and cleansed, we may offer our petitions to the Father.

Prayer in His name and His will was the theme for Pastor Skramstad's remarks on Friday. There are blessings if we come in His name. Then, too, our will must be in accord with His will.

The final session, on Saturday morning, was devoted to "persevering in prayer." Courses of action can be taken intelligently after persevering prayer. We must pray for a burden for souls and revival in the churches. Oh, if we could only realize the Christless hell awaiting the lost, he challenged the conference.

A season of prayer concluded each prayer hour.

Devotional sessions

The twice daily devotional sessions, opening each business session at the Conference, were led by these persons:

Thursday:

a.m.—Dr. James Gerdeen, St. Paul, Minn., I Thess. 4

p.m.—Mr. Gilbert Schroeder, Minneapolis, Minn., Heb. 11:23-26

Friday:

a.m.—Mr. Charles Knapp, Minneapolis, I Thess. 4:13-18 and II Tim. 4:1-8

p.m.—Rev. Ingolf Kronstad, Jr., Jer. 33:3

Saturday:

a.m.—Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn., Ps. 96

p.m.—Mr. Norman Olson, Willmar, Minn., Rom. 8:31-39

YOUTH

Be Ready, Always

Stephanie Krueger

There was a steel calmness in the interrogator's eyes that showed he was not to be swayed or easily put off. He expected an answer and would stand there until Mark could give him a reasonable response or admit that he was wrong. He'd had enough of this Christian hoax and it was time to promote his religion—atheism.

For the first time Mark found himself troubled about his own beliefs. Where were the answers he needed? Where were the proofs of God's existence? And amid his aching confusion his thoughts went back home, to Connie.

His blond hair waved wildly in the wind and his blue eyes sparkled as he falshed a grin to Connie. "Hey, it's not that bad," he said as she looked into his cheerful face and wiped a tear from her own. "I've been going to Sunday School, church and Bible Study all my life. I'm well versed in the Bible."

"I know," she replied. "But . . ." her voice dropped off.

"But you'll miss me, right? I know. But I won't be gone that long and besides, you'll be so wrapped up studying God's Word you'll forget about me completely. And you'll probably meet some other handsome prince who'll sweep you off your feet. So chin up!"

"It's not that, Mark," she said. Sure she liked him, more than he could even know. And yes, she wanted him to come to Bible School with her, but not just for her sake. How often she had shared that verse with him from 1 Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Why couldn't he understand that that was why he needed Bible School? She couldn't blame him for going to a secular college; he'd been offered so many scholarships. But still, what good would all his knowledge do him if he couldn't be an effective witness for the Lord?

He broke into her thoughts. "It's that verse again, isn't it? Connie, you

have to understand; God is working in my life. He's used me to lead people to the Lord and isn't that our sole purpose on this earth?!" the irritation sounded in his voice.

"I'm sorry, Mark," she responded softly. "I'll try to understand."

Poor Connie. Maybe she'd been right all along. Maybe he did need Bible School. The steel eyes continued to pierce him and his words came out mumbled and hopeless. At last he sighed. "I'm sorry," he said, "I know my God is real and I want to prove that to you. But I . . . I just don't have any answers yet, to give you." A hollow laugh escaped the interrogator's lips, and a light sparked in his eyes. Victory number one.

Mark stood alone as he watched the tall form move boldly down the long, narrow hall, and he heard Connie's voice in his ears, "It's not that, Mark. It's God's Word. Remember 1 Peter 3:15? 'But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.'" ☪




First AFLC Bible Camp held at the ARC

Over 100 campers gathered at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis. during the week of July 6-12. The Mpls. District youth inaugurated the facilities. Though much remains to be done, many volunteers assisted Director Bob Dietsche in preparing the grounds. Volunteers included a work-retreat for a bus load of Spicer-Green Lake youth.



Life on the Edge of Town



Red Wing Seminary

On an early summer trip to Wabasha, Minn., for dinner, my mother, two of my sisters and I found the place in beautiful Red Wing, Minn., where the Red Wing Seminary had stood. As my readers will know, that was the theological school of the Hauge's Synod, one of the three bodies which in 1917 joined together to form the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, later the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The other two, by the way, were the United Church and the Norwegian Synod.

Of the three bodies, the Hauge's Synod was closest in spirit and piety to the Lutheran Free Church. There are indeed some AFLC pastors and people who trace their ancestry among Lutherans in America to the Hauge's Synod. Others of us have to say, no, we weren't from that Synod but we are heirs of Hans Nielsen Hauge's work in Norway. Some day I hope the various strands of our AFLC heritage can be drawn together and traced out in a book, the evangelical influences from the various nationalities which have made us what we are today.

A rest home now stands on that high point in Red Wing where the Seminary used to be, I couldn't help but think of the men who studied there and those who taught them. To have been a student at Red Wing marked one as having been touched by the good things of God.

Let me quote what the late N. N. Rønning once wrote: "Much was said

of 'the spirit of Red Wing Seminary.' I think that the school, as I knew it, represented some of the finest things in Haugeanism: a mellow, gentle piety; deep seriousness; an inner glow of happiness; an ever present but not demonstrative concern for the spiritual welfare of others; hard work; eagerness to serve in the field the Spirit would indicate."

Not a bad description for what we want as the spirit of our own seminary at Medicine Lake and what, I believe, is to be found there.

Rain Came

What was our cumulative rainfall total for April, May and up to June 27, here in Newfolden? Certainly no more than half an inch. The situation was unreal; no one could remember anything quite like it.

Things looked quite green in spite of it all. The trees had their leaves, most of the crop had come up, but was heading out very short. So there wasn't the dry look such as I saw further west in the U.S. and Canada in 1961, later in the summer. Nevertheless, lawns showed the effect and looked poor. (We haven't mowed our lawn yet by July 1, except for some small patches.) And gardens were suffering.

By July 1, most of our garden hasn't come up. The potatoes have come up. I have carried river water to the tomatoes, so they look okay. In one stretch of three rows of corn, three plants emerged and something nipped one of

them off. I'm not so surprised only three plants came, but I wonder why they did. And why three or four pea plants came up out of all that were planted. Beans have done better.

But we did get some nice rain on June 27 and 28, and a little more on the 30th, so we're more optimistic now, particularly for gardens. More plants are emerging. Our crops have been hurt, though. This won't be a good year for the farmers around here. We can feel for them. May things turn out better than may seem likely at the moment.

Trip to Canada

The Lord willing, I'll be leaving for Canada this weekend to help "Celebrate Saskatchewan." The province is 75 years old this year and most every small town is sponsoring festivities in connection with that. Such is the case with my old hometown, Govan, where the dates are (were) July 11-13. The local area newspaper up there was kind enough to print an account I wrote of boyhood days in Govan.

It is relatively reasonable to travel in Canada, compared to the U.S. and I will be visiting some folks and doing some vacationing on this same trip. Not as ambitious a trip as Solveig Larson of our staff will be making when she goes to Norway in August. But I'll share a report of my journey to Saskatchewan next time.

—Raynard Huglen

In Memoriam

A three-wheel motorbike accident in rural Badger, MN, on July 5, 1980, took the lives of two boys. Craig, age 9, son of Martin and Barbara Holm Johnson, Badger, died enroute to the hospital. John, age 16, son of Clifford and Ruby Holm, Minneapolis, died on July 11, as a result of injuries.

Funeral services for the boys were held at Badger Creek Free Lutheran Church, Pastor Gust Nordvall, officiating. A memorial service for John was held on July 20, at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Mpls., Pastor Jay Erickson, conducting.

Through this experience, the families praise God for His goodness as they have the full assurance that both boys are at home with their Savior, awaiting reunion with their loved ones.

Our prayers continue to be with the Holm-Johnson families in their loss of sons and grandson. Cliff Holm has been employed by AFLBS for 10 years.

John Holm



Craig Johnson



BARNABAS teams serve Home Mission churches

by Lori Jordan

"And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are'" (Acts 15:36).

This is the mission of the BARNABAS I and BARNABAS II teams as they travel this summer to AFLC Home Mission churches. Barnabas means "son of encouragement." BARNABAS stands for Building and Reaching New AFLC Brethren with AFLBS Students. It is a privilege for us to be involved in this ministry of help and encouragement to these young and growing congregations.

AFLBS has sent out two teams this year. Steve Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn., Mary Haugen, Binford, N. Dak., and Lori Jordan, Bagley, Minn., are the BARNABAS I members. They are working with AFLC churches in Willmar, Minn., St. Paul, Minn., Chassell-Pelkie, Mich., Amery, Wis., Aberdeen, S. Dak., and Fergus Falls, Minn. BARNABAS II members are Keith Kinneberg, Abercrombie, N. Dak., Mary Johnson, Chatham, Mich., and Jean Kjorstad, Williston, N. Dak. Their summer will be spent in

St. Paul's Victory in Christ's pastor's wife, Mrs. James Gerdeen, visited during VBS craft time. Two team members, Mary Haugen and Steve Snipstead, are pictured.



BARNABAS I (row 2): Mary Haugen, Lori Jordan, Steve Snipstead.
BARNABAS II (row 1): Keith Kinneberg, Mary Johnson, Jean Kjorstad.

Leeds, Dickinson and Bismarck, N. Dak.; Kalispell, Mont.; and Vancouver, Wash. They will do survey work in Williston, N. Dak. and in Spokane, Wash.

When writing this article, we are finishing our fourth week of work. We began the ministry knowing God had led each of us to this work. With the desire to be used whenever and however He wanted, it has been thrilling to daily come before God Almighty and trust Him for everything.

Our Lord, through this experience, has given us a greater appreciation for our pastors as we observe the responsibility, concern and dedication they have for each one of their members.

Our two-week stay in each community finds us involved in the many aspects of DVBS. Whether it be with the puppets, crafts, mission story, or whatever, we seek to proclaim the glorious message of salvation. What a joy it is to see children coming to hear about Jesus; some who have never been to VBS or Sunday School. We can only trust God to nurture the seed we have planted. Backyard Bible clubs have given us an opportunity to reach those who would not come to a church.

Canvassing door-to-door to invite people to join us in worship is another of our responsibilities. We thank God for the open doors and hearts He leads us to. We have also many opportunities to share our faith in nursing homes, apartment complexes, and in the many homes in which we have had the joy of sharing a meal. We ourselves are blessed as we see how God is working in the Home Mission churches and in individual lives.

Pray for and rejoice with us, knowing our Lord is equipping us to work as His servants to bring glory to His name and souls to His Kingdom. We claim I Chron. 28:20: "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

New district formed

A new, old district has been formed in the Association. The north half of the Northern Minnesota District from now on will be known as the Northwestern Minnesota District. The south half will be known as the North Central Minnesota District. Some years ago the two areas were separate districts, then for some years were known as one, although they usually operated as separate units and have their own Bible Camps.

Parishes in the Northwestern District are Thief River Falls, Newfolden, Greenbush, Badger Creek-Oiland, Roseau, Salem, Bethlehem and Poplar Grove.

In the North Central District are the Winger, McIntosh-Fosston, Shevlin, Bagley and Bemidji parishes.

Both districts will be represented on the Nominating Committee for the Annual Conference in 1981, the Northwestern District by Mr. Harvey Dyrud of Newfolden and the North Central by Mr. Reuben Moland, Fertile.

Former LBI Dean died

Rev. Wilson B. Fagerberg, 67, former dean of the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., died in that city last month. Funeral services were conducted in Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley. Burial was in Mount Hermon Lutheran Cemetery, Annandale, Minn.

Mr. Fagerberg served the LBI and Golden Valley Lutheran College, Minneapolis, for 27 years. He was a graduate of the LBI, Bethany College and Augustana Lutheran Seminary, the latter of Rock Island, Ill.

He is survived by his wife Helen, a son and a daughter, a brother and a grandson.

Blessed be his memory.

Personalities

Mr. Leoyd B. Miller, Broton, Minn., was chosen Minnesota Champion Farmer-Sportsman for 1980. He was nominated for the honor by the Kandiyohi County Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Miller was honored at a banquet at the Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., this past spring and also at the Northwest Sports Show at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of Our Savior's Lutheran of Crow Lake, rural Belgrade, Minn., an AFLC congregation served by Rev. Carl Hort.

With our evangelist

Dalton, Minn.

Kvam Lutheran Church

Aug. 24-28

Mark Antal, student pastor

Osceola, Wis.

AFLC Center

Aug. 29-31

Youth Leadership Retreat

Pastor Flores' daughter visits AFLC people in U.S.

Leticia Flores, a high school science and math teacher, is spending 6 weeks in America with AFLC families. She hopes to learn English better and, by so doing, bridge the communication gap between the Mexican AFLC churches and those here in the U.S.

Leticia was met at the airport by Pastor and Mrs. Snipstead on July 9.

July 22, 1980



A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



The Lord our righteousness

Jeremiah 23:6

"I know that I haven't been everything that I should have been either." These words were spoken by my father during the last week of his earthly life. He spoke these words from a body that was emaciated and weak from cancer. I had just told him that I was sorry for the many times that I had not honored him as I ought to have done. He kindly assured me that I was forgiven and then added, "I know that I haven't been everything that I should have been either." My father acknowledged his unrighteousness, but he also acknowledged that the Lord was his righteousness. A few weeks earlier he had asked me if I had ever heard of anyone choosing the text for his funeral. When I assured him that I had had a few people do this, he opened his Bible to Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," and stated that he would like to have that text used for his funeral. He had come to trust in the Lord as his righteousness.

I read of another dying man who called for his pastor. As the pastor sat beside him, the dying man commented, "I could have done better." Instead of saying, "But, John, you have done the best you could, and that's all that God expects," the pastor replied, "Yes, you could have done better. But Christ could not have done better, for Christ was perfect. And He died so that God can forgive your failings. In Him is your hope, for when you trust Him, you are as perfect in God's sight as Christ is. He is your righteousness. You could

have done better, but Christ could not. His perfection is yours through faith in Him."

About 25 centuries ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote concerning Christ, "And this is His name whereby He shall be called, *The Lord our Righteousness*." Jeremiah is telling us that salvation is through Christ alone. He calls Jesus "Lord." Yes, He who walked over the stony paths of Palestine was at the same time the Lord of Heaven and earth. He who had no place to lay His head, who was despised and rejected of men, was at the same time God over all things. *And Jeremiah knew Him as his Lord and Righteousness.*

Truly, Christ is our *righteousness*, for He has fulfilled the holy Law of God perfectly for us. He turned the other cheek and went the second mile which ended at Calvary. Even as a man on earth, Christ was without any fault, but was full of grace and truth. He lived a perfect, righteous life so that He could make us righteous and bring us unto glory. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the *righteousness* of God in Him."

Can you say with Jeremiah, "*The Lord our Righteousness*"? Have you acknowledged that you have no righteousness of your own, that you are not everything that you should be, that you could have (and should have) done better? Then trust in Christ as your *Savior* and as your *Righteousness*. Then you can stand before God as righteous in Christ, as though you had never sinned at all.



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