AWBASSADOR AVBASSADOR

July 8, 1980



18th Annual Conference of the AFLC

 $``The \, Lord \, Always \, Before \, Us"$

AT THE R'S FEET MAS by Pastor Ralph M. Rokke

The Fruit-bearing Season

In our backyard, when I was growing up, we had a crabapple tree. There were many trees in our yard, but that crabapple tree was always one of my favorites for two reasons. First, it was a good tree to climb and play in and, secondly, it produced those deliciously sour crabapples. Those apples would sting and "bite back" when we ate them, but we kids really loved them anyway.

Several years after I had grown up and left home, I returned for a visit and noticed that some of the biggest branches of the old crabapple tree were missing. It did not look at all as I remembered it.

I asked my dad what had happened and he said that during the previous fruit-bearing season the tree had produced so many crabapples that some of its branches had cracked and broken off under the burden of all the extra

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weight. The tree had literally exhausted its strength in producing fruit.

What an example that tree provides for Christians! Jesus said, "He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." A Christian is to be in a constant fruit-bearing season for his Lord. Our strength should be devoted to bearing fruit for him. Few of us are in any danger of snapping under the strain of our fruit-bearing for Christ, as the old crabapple tree cracked in its fruit-bearing. Yet that is what we must be ready to do. We must be willing even to lay down our lives for Him.

The Bible tells us that spiritual fruit can be either good or bad. Jesus said, in Matthew 7:17, "Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."

Evil fruit is sin. Today my four-year old daughter and I were having devotions together and we read from Genesis 3 about how Adam and Eve fell into sin. They ate of the fruit which God had commanded them not to eat and in so doing they produced another kind of fruit. They produced the spiritual fruit of sin and that fruit has been reproduced in every generation of their descendants since that time.

A corrupt life brings forth the evil fruit of sin. Except for the grace of God, none of us would be able to bring forth any other kind of fruit, but a saved life, a regenerate life, is by God's grace able to produce a very different kind of fruit. It brings forth what the Bible calls, in Galatians 5:22-23, the "fruit of the Spirit."

If the Lord allows, I plan in the coming weeks to write on each of the nine characteristics that go together to make up the fruit of the Spirit. They are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

Here at the outset, may I challenge you to examine your life and evaluate the kind of spiritual fruit that is present in it?

If your only spiritual fruit is sin, then you need the Savior. Jesus can make all things new in your life and He will if you confess your sin unto Him and invite Him into your heart and life.

If you already claim him as your Savior, then the fruit of your life should be love, joy, peace, and all the rest of the fruit of the Spirit.

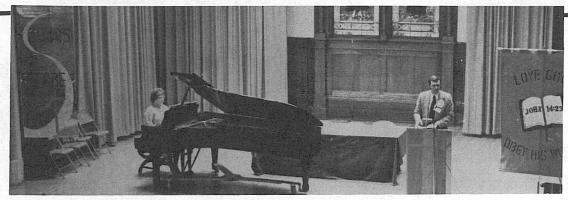
One of the well-known companies that distributes oranges in our country boasts that it puts its name on every orange that it sells. It presents its name as a guarantee to the buyer that the fruit is good and fresh.

Christians also bear a tremendous name. It is the name of Christ from which the word "Christian" is derived. That name should be a guarantee in our lives of the presence of good spiritual fruit. Anything less is a betrayal of that greatest of all names.

"Abide in Me," Jesus said, "and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me" (John 15:4).

Dear reader, may you live in a constant fruit-bearing season for Christ. May you abide in Him and bear much fruit for Him. Amen.

Cover photo identification: ABOVE RIGHT: Pastor Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash. BELOW RIGHT: Pastor and Mrs. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn. MIDDLE LEFT: Mrs. Miedema, Johnson, Bjornson, Valley City. BELOW LEFT: Pastor Samuel Flores, Leon, Mexico. MIDDLE: Mr. Burton Rygh, Greenbush, Minn.



Pastor Curtis Emerson welcomed the delegates.

CONFERENCE REVIEW

Under the theme, "The Lord Always Before Us" (Psalm 16), the AFLC for the third time in her history met in Valley City, N. Dak., in annual conference, this time from June 11-15. Previous conferences were in 1964 and 1970 and they were held in the City Auditorium, whereas this year's conclave was held across the Sheyenne River, on the campus of the State College.

The 18th Conference brought a total of 379 delegates from 11 states and two other countries, Mexico and Brazil. The delegate total compares with the 274 who were registered last year at Whitefish, Mont., and the all-time high of 496 at Minneapolis, Minn., in 1978.

World Mission Director

Committee No. 3, which deals with Missions and Evangelism in the church, brought in a resolution stating "that this conference approve the calling of a full-time World Mission Director." This provoked one of the major discussions of the conference. Proponents said that a full-time director is needed now to better handle the details of a growing mission outreach and to facilitate communication between the home office and the field. Opponents said the work can be taken care of on a part-time basis at present and the AFLC cannot overextend itself in its budget.

The issue was tabled until Saturday morning. When it became clear that the Board of World Missions itself hadn't been thinking in terms of fulltime directorship for the immediate future and an amendment was attached stating that a full-time director would be called "at such time as is possible, under the direction of the Board of World Missions," the resolution passed.

World Mission budget provisions through 1981 do not have sufficient funds for a full-time director and therefore it is unlikely that the post will be made full-time until after that.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River Falls, Minn., presently serves as mission director on a one-fourth time basis.

Work in Mexico

There was a flurry of discussion on the conference floor about the assistance being given the work in Leon. Some felt the help being given toward the purchase of a church site and the building of a church was inadequate. A love offering to provide further funds was suggested by one delegate.

But by the time the discussion was over it turned out that there had been some problem in transmission of communication from the U.S. to Mexico and the Board of World Missions was living up to commitments made. The resolution passed, in effect, leaves the matter in the Board's hands, although it was pointed out that special designated gifts for Mexico can be given by interested persons and congregations, as indeed they can be given for other fields as well.

World Mission grants for capital improvements in Mexico are matched dollar for dollar by the church there.

"Profiles of Lutherans"

The AFLC is participating in a survey among eight Lutheran church bodies this fall. The study is funded by Aid Association for Lutherans, a fraternal insurance company. The questionnaire will test the respondents' beliefs, attitudes and practises. Rev. Kenneth Moland, dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, is the AFLC representative on the Steering Committee. The Annual Conference urged full cooperation by those asked to take part in the survey.

Grace Lutheran, Valley City







Dahlgren Property

The Conference gave approval to the plan of seeking to develop the so-called "Dahlgren property" near Lake Park, Minn., as a wilderness camp. The 70-acre piece of land fronts on two lakes.

A committee which has been studying how best to utilize this desirable piece of land given by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren of Lake Park feels that it would be too expensive to build up a regular Bible camp at this time, but that the area in question would serve well as a place for tent camping. A minimum of facilities would be needed for that purpose.

It was announced that anyone interested in moving on to the property and living in a mobile home, to serve as caretaker should contact Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, 715 Tindolph Ave. So., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701.

Tuition to be the Same

On the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, it was voted to remove the additional \$25 in tuition per quarter charged to non-AFLC students at AFLBS. While the differential in tuition had not caused any "problems," it was stated that it did raise some barriers and its removal could make attendance by non-AFLC youth more inviting.

There were no major decisions made in regard to the Schools (Seminary and Bible School) this year but the annual Corporation meeting took two actions of some interest. One was to direct its executive committee and the Board of Trustees to study the matter of naming the Bible School buildings and report to the next annual meeting of the Corporation.

The other was a direction that the School's faculty and the Board of Trustees investigate possibilities of offering a third year of curriculum in the Bible School for people desiring lay service in the church. The report of that study is also to be made at the Corporation's next annual meeting.

Next Year's Conference

At a "mini-conference" held on the West Coast this spring, a resolution was passed asking that the AFLC annual conferences be held a week later than is presently the case (beginning on the second Wednesday in June). That resolution was conveyed to the conference by Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash. Largest problem for the West Coasters is that the public schools there are (usually) in session at the time of the annual conferences.

The issue was held over until the next day, Friday, at which time an amended resolution was passed, which is as follows: "Be it resolved that the suggested start of the Annual Conference of the AFLC be changed from the second Wednesday of June to the third Wednesday of June for 1980."

The addition of the word "suggested" allows the Conference Committee (President and Secretary) some leeway in setting the dates for the 1981 conference, but if it does begin on the third Wednesday the dates will be June 17-21.

No place of meeting for 1981 was announced but it is assumed that the conference will be in Minneapolis as there is a pattern of having every third conference at church headquarters at









Medicine Lake.

Pictorial Directory

The Board of Publications and Parish Education reported that it is considering a pictorial directory of the AFLC, suggesting that its publication be done as a project in connection with the 20th anniversary of the fellowship. The Annual Conference gave its blessing to the venture, at least to the extent that further investigation be made with "careful consideration of cost and need."

The 20th anniversary falls in October, 1982, by one way of reckoning, or February 1, 1983, by another.

Home Mission Board

It took some time to get a nominee to send to the Missions Corporation for a member on the Board of Home Missions to replace Pastor Herbert Franz. The Nominating Committee presented the name of Rev. David Molstre as one of two nominees for a vacancy on the Board. The question was raised whether or not a conflict of interest would exist in having a home mission

pastor sit on the Board which salaries him (guarantees his salary). Another asked if the fact that Pastor Molstre is the vice-president of the AFLC presented a hindrance to Board membership. Someone pointed out that the Dickinson, N. Dak., congregation which he serves is expected to go off Home Mission rolls before long and that objection will then be removed.

Pastor Molstre was nominated under new nominations, as were two other candidates. He defeated them in conference vote and was subsequently elected by the Missions Corporation.

As to World Missions, Pastor Enderlein resigned from the Board of World Missions because he is serving as mission director on a one-fourth time basis.

Much Turnover

Perhaps no previous year has seen as much turnover in membership on major boards and committees as took place at Valley City. The men who will be leaving office and the reasons can be categorized this way:

Ineligible for having served two

consecutive terms: Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Home Missions; Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Pensions; Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, Co-ordinating.

Declined renomination: Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Evangelism.

Resignations: Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Schools; Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions; Arlo Kneeland, Stewardship; Mr. Melvin Gravgaard, Pensions.

Defeated for re-election: Rev. J. G. Erickson, Schools; Rev. Edwin Kjos, Stewardship; Mr. Eldor Sorkness, World Missions; Rev. Francis Monseth, Youth.

Of the above, Mr. Kneeland moves to the Co-ordinating Committee and Pastor Enderlein continues as parttime Director of World Missions.

As to the constitutional officers of the fellowship, while Rev. David Molstre was re-elected vice-president of the AFLC, a new secretary was chosen, Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis. Rev. Einer Unseth, secretary until Oct. 1, did not wish re-election and would have needed a three-fourths majority on the first ballot since he had served three consecutive terms of one year each. \$\frac{1}{2}\$



Conference personalities

LEFT: Mrs. Harry Lindgren, Mpls., with Pastor and Mrs. George Knapp, Brazil. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Pastor Forrest Swenson, Fergus Falls, Minn. LEFT: The four generations, Mrs. Del Palmer, Mpls.; Mrs. Don Pederson, Bellingham, Wash.; Mrs. Harriet Norgaard, Ferndale, Wash.; Rebecca Palmer. ABOVE RIGHT: Mr. Gus Arneson, Fargo, N. Dak.; Pastor Huglen. LEFT: Mrs. Amos Dyrud, AFLC president's secretary. OPPOSITE ABOVE RIGHT: Bismarck youth. LEFT: Pastor Ingolf Kronstad, Jr., Great Falls, Mont.; Pastor John Rieth, Kalispell, Mont.



Campo Mourao, the Lord continues to bless

by Karen Ellertson, Stacy, Minn.

Campo Mourao lives a simple way of life. Instead of the sound of horns, you often hear the hoofs of horses. Oftentimes candles take the place of electricity and boards nailed together, plush furniture. I don't mean to leave the impression that all of Brazil is poor, although due to lack of better education and training, many have to settle for a wage equivalent to \$60 a month in a country where the cost of living is just as high as in the States. The main and sometimes only food is beans and rice. These and coffee you can see growing everywhere in the beautiful, rolling countryside.

In spite of (or maybe because of) the simplicity, it is a very busy life for the missionaries. Now that camps are over school has begun. There are 18 students studying at the Bible School and Seminary this year. Classes are held in the evenings, leaving the days open for work and study. On the weekends each seminarian is involved in a church either in Campo or the interior. The Lord is using one of the men to start a mission in Paraguay. In mentioning this we mustn't forget the works in Rondonia and Curitiba. The Lord is expanding His ministry in all directions. Praise God!

The churches are small and simple, but always overflowing with people eager to hear about Jesus. Each Sunday before service, hymns piped outside call families to worship as they walk to church. Once inside, strange words (to us) with familiar tunes are lifted in praise to the Lord. It's exciting and encouraging to come half way

around the world and find people worshipping the same Lord in the same way.

Besides raising families, teaching classes and shepherding congregations, the Dyruds (Connely) and Abels (David) have countless other responsibilities. Each church has ladies' Bible studies once a week. This week Mrs. Dyrud led the study on being content with whatever we have. This was an excellent reminder for me-especially here! Also weekly are prayer meetings and "culto em casa" (house services). The house meetings are special as everyone gathers at the designated home for singing, prayer, teaching, refreshments and fellowship. The homes are usually small and illuminated by candle or lantern. There is seldom enough room for everyone to sit or even stand inside, so many crowd around the doors and windows to hear the Word of God. Every Sunday afternoon is given to the Lord for visitation and once a month the pastors go to the interior



Students ready to leave for a weekend ministry.

churches to share, visit and encourage.

A missionary is so busy giving that his only opportunity to feed is through personal study and prayer, and the prayers of others. I hope this shows you some of the needs and problems the missionaries face and will help you to pray more specifically. Praise God for what He has done and is continuing to do. It's only through prayer and action that your mission field can grow.

Because of the poverty of so many people, some lower themselves to thievery. In the last month we have twice felt the sting when all of our chickens, some goats, gas and other things were stolen. Please pray with us for God's protection over His property here and that He could use this to work the miracle of salvation in the lives of the thieves.

Workers here will be encouraged and blessed by the visit of FLY (Free Lutheran Youth) members to Brazil in July and August.



Bible Institute students at Campo Mourao.

A pastor's Sunday morning prayer

Dear Father,

As I share Your Word today, I pray that my presentation will be clear and moving, yes, even beautiful, for the message deserves such a presentation. Yet, I cannot deny that there is within me something that desires such a presentation for another reason. I would that men admire and respect me. So, Lord, if it would be better for me to give a more common presentation, so be it. Yet I pray that the message will have the power of Your Word, from which it is derived. Such a presentation may not gain for me the respect of the world, but it will gain the fellowship of Your people. That is far greater and, beyond that, it will assure me of the presence of Your Holy Spirit in my life. That fellowship is the most precious of all.

Hear my prayer for Jesus' sake, Amen.

(Submitted by an AFLC pastor who wishes to remain anonymous.)

From the Knapps

We are very happy to be home again with our children, their wives, our grandchildren and you friends in all our AFLC churches. We are looking forward to seeing you this fall at your rallies, festivals and special meetings.

These days at the 18th Annual Conference in Valley City, N. Dak., have been real special to us. This town is near our home territory. It has been good to shake so many hands and see faces we recognize.

We invite you to come and visit us in Willmar, Minn. We chose to live here so we could be near two of our sons and families. Our address:

Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp 1401 S. W. 5 St. No. 211B Willow Run II Willmar, Minn. 56201 Our telephone is (612) 231-1283. Your missionaries from Brazil home on furlough, George and Helen Knapp

FLY team departed from Mpls. on June 15.

Five young people left for Brazil for summer work with the missionaries.

Rachel Mundfrom, Osceola, Wis., and LaVonne Torkelson, Wanamingo, Minn., travelled with Jonathan, Lydia, and Priscilla Abel. Jonathan Abel is the group leader.

THE LORD MY SHEPHERD IS

The Lord my shepherd is; I shall be well supplied: Since He is mine and I am His, What can I want beside?

He leads me to the place Where heavenly pasture grows; Where living waters gently pass, And full salvation flows.

If e'er I go astray, He doth my soul reclaim; And guides me in His own right way, For His most holy name.

While He affords His aid,
I cannot yield to fear;
Though I should walk through death's
dark shade
My Shepherd's with me there.

In spite of all my foes, Thou dost my table spread; My cup with blessings overflows, And joy exalts my head.

The bounties of Thy love Shall crown my following days; Nor from Thy house will I remove, Nor cease to speak Thy praise.

Isaac Watts (from The Lutheran Hymnary)

Teeta

Bitter Tears

by Stephanie Krueger

His head hung low upon his chest and with heavy feet he walked slowly up the long church aisle and knelt before the shadowed wooden cross. A lone tear slid from his eye and he raised his face in agony to behold the wretched cross. Such a familiar sight to him! How often he sat in church on Sundays and Wednesdays and stared unseeingly at the cross. Now, for the first time, the burden of the old wooden structure bore heavily on his heart as the picture of his life began to spin around in his head.

Grant had been a Christian for as long as he could remember and his witness was well established. When Rob Anderson had moved to town, Grant had been the first to welcome him and invite him to Luther League. Rob had declined the invitation, stating bluntly that he didn't believe in God.

His cheeks grew warm as he sat alone in the empty sanctuary. What had gone wrong? He'd intended to lead Rob to the Lord, but somehow it hadn't quite worked. "Why?" he wondered, "Why?"

The music was blaring loudly and Grant attempted to speak above it, "Hey, Rob! Why do you listen to this rotten stuff?!" he yelled.

"If you don't like it, you don't have to stay," Rob hollered back.

"Well, I don't like it, but I'm staying anyway—we have to finish fixing this car. And besides, Rob," Grant finished with a grin, "someday you're gonna know my Lord."

Rob had shut off the music abruptly and as he'd rubbed his greasy hand across his forehead he'd said, "You know, Grant, I don't know how we get along; you're nuts over your religious stuff and I'm a stubborn atheist."

"Yeah," Grant replied, "but we have one thing in common."

"Cars, huh?" laughed Rob.

"Nope. We're both sinners, Rob, and God loves us both."

Rob had grinned widely and once again the music blared.

Grant and Rob spent more and more time together but Rob never seemed to come around. Grant was patient, though, and, besides, Rob's music didn't bother him anymore like it had at first. Even the cigarette smoke wasn't as unbearable as it had been. And come to think of it, he hadn't heard Rob swear for days. Had Rob finally quit, or was he just getting used to it? Oh well, no big deal—

Another tear slid from his eye. He could have saved himself months of misery if he'd have only seen! Why had he been so blind? His head fell to touch the foot of the old, rugged cross.

The dented beer can rolled slowly down the driveway. It was almost too hot to work today but they wanted to finish the car. Only a few hours of work were left. "Sure helps to cool you down," Rob hollered over the music, as he reached for another can of beer.

Grant reached over to shut off the music. "Yeah. On a hot day like this there's nothing better than ice cold beer."

Rob laughed. "Funny," he said, "I honestly never thought I'd see the day when you'd hold a beer can in your hand, and now you're not only holdin' it, you're drinkin' it! Yep!—I always knew God wasn't for real."

Suddenly Grant's cold drink was like fire in his throat and Rob's empty laugh strangled his heart. Seven months ago he'd come to invite Rob to church and now he was drinking Rob's beer and smoking Rob's cigarettes! Was that what Pastor Olson was talking about when he quoted Proverbs 4:14-16? "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

"Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

"For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall."

His tears came forth in bitter torment and his soul cried out in deepest anguish. What had he done? What had he done?! He'd wasted months of his life, ruined his testimony, and brought shame upon the name of his Holy God. He lifted his sunken face up to the rutted old cross and cried out painfully, "Father, forgive me! Forgive me!"

The night passed slowly by and as day began to dawn a lone figure still slumped before the cross. No one could know the deepness of his hurt nor the sorrow of his heart, and no one could know the travail of his soul as he went continuously hour after hour. At last as the sun began to lighten the room, the young man arose, and with one last painful realization of the cross, he walked from the church. His heart was heavy but once again he felt the calm peace of his God within him. His road would be rough for a while, but he was on his way home-he'd knelt at the foot of the old, rugged cross.

A Christian's Right

Anyone will give up wrong things if he knows how, but are we prepared to give up the best we have for Jesus Christ? The only right a Christian has is the right to give up his rights.

Oswald Chambers

editorials

THE DAY AFTER

It is the day after the closing of the 18th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Too early to sort out all the bits and pieces from three days of business sessions and a number of inspirational services. But we have to meet deadlines and so one is compelled to put something down.

This Conference was one without any major decision. That statement is open to challenge, we suppose, for sometimes something that doesn't stand out at first later is found out to be of great importance. But what we mean is that no special programs were launched, no new departures set in motion.

For a while it looked as though there might be a major decision. We debated establishing the position of full-time director for World Missions. However, after thinking it over, and praying over it, the Conference decided the time wasn't quite ready. We think that was the right way to go. The move will come eventually, but we must catch our breath a little in regard to budget in the meantime. Also, the possibility of a decision of that nature should be known to the church at large prior to a conference and that was not the case this year.

This year we got our first half million dollar budget. Next year we will get our first \$800,000 one. Actually the difference between them is about \$227,000. We've never had an increase in giving like that before, from one year to the next, so it will be challenge enough for us. Someone called our attention to the fact that the 1981-82 budget (adopted in Valley City) calls for an average of over \$6,000 per congregation. A quick look at the last full year for which we have records at hand shows that in 1978-79 about 17 congregations out of our total of about 130 reached the \$6,000 mark in benevolence giving. No doubt more did in 1978-80, but the challenge is still there.

This year's Budget Analysis Committee report gave us about 42 more lines than last year and we appreciate that. But it is obvious that they cannot share very much of all the information they are given when they hold their meeting to review the proposed budgets. We have to have faith in the members. This year's committee determined that all agency requests were necessary and legitimate and recommended them to the delegates. We, in turn, accepted them.

Some in attendance at the conference thought the resolutions on evangelism played down the importance of evangelistic services and other outreach in communities. But rather than that, they were an attempt to underline the evangelism which takes place in the day-by-day program of the congregation, and the week-by-week preaching and teaching of the Word and the use of the Sacraments. We

should pray that things will happen and we should expect that they will, in lives.

We have written it before, but we say it again, after the evangelism series is over, after the crusade has ended, after the guest preacher has gone, the local pastor realizes anew how much depends on him and the faithful flock to reach out to those who did not avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the special services. And so they carry on, wanting to be right handlers of the Word of truth, trusting the Holy Spirit to do His good work.

To the other resolutions of thanks which have already been made to departing board members we add our own. As has been noted in the news story on the conference elsewhere in this issue, an unusually high number of men are leaving their positions this year, either by choice or by necessity. We don't always understand how things work out, but for whatever reason they no longer serve on these boards and committees with which they have been so closely identified, we trust that they have a feeling of personal satisfaction and fulfillment from the service they rendered our Lord and our church.

We may want to make further comments on the 1980 Annual Conference next time. At any rate there will be further news from it at that time. But what cannot wait is a word of thank-you from all of us delegates and visitors to the fine people of Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches for the excellent hospitality shown us during the Conference. You made us feel at home. Thank you, members of the churches and Pastor and Mrs. Curtis Emerson. And we have nothing but good feelings toward the people of the State College, too, for their fine service to us. They treated us as family and we're just very pleased with our stay on that lovely campus.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU

Now something very personal about the *Ambassador*. A resolution was passed at the Conference encouraging the submission of more news articles and testimonies of growth and blessing in individual lives. That conference action certainly has our endorsement.

Testimonies fit right into our Fellowship Corner. A pastor told us at Valley City of an unusual experience in his earlier life and we suggested he put it down on paper to share with our readers. Many of our people have similar incidents of which to tell, we mean experiences revealing the Lord's leading. Should you be one such, perhaps the Lord would be glorified in your telling of it and others would be edified.

May we add a third way in which you can share in the fulfillment of this paper's task and purpose. That is, feel free to write the Editor to express your opinion of something which appears in an editorial or article or item in the Am-bassador. You might also want to comment on some Association goal or program. Some readers turn first to Letters to the Editor columns in newspapers or magazines. Seldom do they have opportunity to do so in this publication.

Not everyone feels called on to write to a paper, but we want you to know at least that the door is open for you to do so. Frankly, we sometimes think there would be some reaction on some issues.

LEAGUES ALIVE

West Coast Leaguers gather in Astoria

The young people of the West Coast District churches were well represented in Astoria, Oregon, this spring. Registration began on a Friday evening, followed by a singspiration and a time of sharing. The theme was taken from Matthew 16:24: "Take up thy cross and follow Me." This is not always an easy thing to do; our crosses can be really heavy.

Saturday morning began with prayer-time. Pastor Leslie Galland led the morning Bible study on the Christian's armor, found in Ephesians 6:10-24. If we are fully equipped with the armor of God we are ready for any battle.

The following officers were elected: president—Eric Gruber, Everett, Wash.; vice-president—Leslie Spading, Kirkland, Wash.; secretary—Susan Bottem, Woodinville, Wash.;

treasurer—Donna Walty, Lake Stevens, Wash.; devotional life secretary—J. R. Cornish, Lake Stevens; Pastoral Advisor—Charles Kvanvig, Vancouver, Wash.

Lunch was followed by recreation and a historical tour of Astoria. A professional clown working in the area of Vancouver challenged and entertained us, both at the banquet Saturday night and at Sunday School. Following the church service, given by Pastor Alvin Grothe, local pastor, and Pastor Kvanvig, a potluck lunch was served.

We then said our goodbyes until the fall rally in Lake Stevens, where we can meet our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ once again. Youth rallies are a very inspirational time for all of us. Please remember the Luther Leaguers in prayer.

Susan Bottem, Secretary

Luther League retreat at Faith Haven

Sixty-five youth attended the retreat at Faith Haven Youth Lodge last spring. Lay Pastor Verle Dean was the evangelist and speaker for the retreat and Seminarian Rob Lewis gave the Bible study. Pastor Dennis Gray led in a question and answer period. Most all of the district pastors were present for the retreat. The theme was "The Consistent Christian Life," based on II Peter 3:11, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Palmer were the counselors. Delmar is attending our Bible School in Minneapolis. Mrs. Ken Nash, Mrs. Gordon Grage and Mrs. George Hartman served as cooks. There was a fine spirit at the camp and many of the youth would have liked to have spent more time. However, since it was the Palm Sunday weekend, we limited the retreat to one day.

-Corr.

AFLBS graduates assist new congregation in Vancouver



L. to R. Andrea Krueger, Amery, Wis., Mike Palkie, Cloquet, Minn., Don Grothe, T.R.F. Minn., Keith Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak., Judy Bergstrom, St. Paul, Minn. These 5 graduates are spending their summer in Vancouver, Wash., where they are working and are able to spend evenings and weekends working with the Home Mission congregation.

AFLBS students survey communities for Home Mission Board



L. to R. Marvin Schauland, Marquette, Mich., Mark Olson, Bloomington, Minn., Anders Macy, Hoods Port, Wash., Brad Sorensen, Lake Stevens, Wash. Abs. Randy Crestik, Cloquet, Minn. and Dave Hjelvik, Mpls. These men spent two weeks gathering information in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Burnsville, Osseo, and Monticello, Minn.

CHAPTER 16:16-33 A LITTLE WHILE

Here Jesus turns His thoughts to what lies immediately ahead. The disciples were puzzled. Notice v. 17. They could not believe He would die, be raised again, and after the ascension return to them with the Holy Spirit to be their Shepherd and give them daily guidance and power and joy.

16-18.
SY 'S
1. What did He say would bring sorrow to the disciples? vs. 16-18.
v to the
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5. In vs. 16-24, Jesus explained what lay beyond their brief separation.			
16-24, Je	.6-19	20-22	76-8
vs. 1	a. vs. 16-19	b. vs. 20-22	10 80 94 9
h	a.	b.	c
TC3			

16. We have another "little while" declared to us in Hebrews 10:37. Copy this.

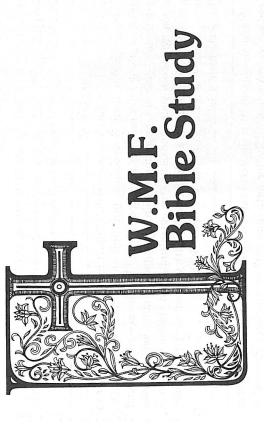
17. While we wait what will the world be like and where will we find peace? v. 33

Dear troubled soul: Come in childlike faith to Jesus with all your guilt, sin and anxious care, and hear Him say to you, "In Me you may have peace!"
18. If the blessings beyond the first resurrection were great, how much more will they be when we shall see Him as He is! Do you long for that day and do you pray, "Even so come, Lord Jesus!"?

"A little while, and we shall be Where sin can never dwell; A little while, and we shall live Where songs of triumph swell. A little while, and we shall hear. Our Saviour's whisper, 'Come'! And we shall ever dwell with Him In our eternal home.

A little while, and we shall see
Our Saviour face to face,
And we shall sing, through endless days,
The wonders of His grace."

J. C. Macaulay



The Gospel of John

August, 1980

Study assignment: Chapters 15 and 16

"Why do other Christians seem to experience exciting answers to prayer? Why am I left in my misery? Does God really love me? Why doesn't God stop disciplining me so that I can testify to new deliverance and victory?"

Do you have thoughts like these? As you study and wait quietly before the Lord, we hope Jesus will reach your bewildered heart with His peace and an assurance that "He longs to be gracious to you and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him" (Isaiah 30:18, NASB).

In Chapters 13 and 14, Jesus is with His disciples in the Upper Room. He told His troubled disciples He must leave them (13:33; 14:19), but also that He would return; first, by the Holy Spirit's coming to dwell in the hearts of believers (14:16-18) and finally by His return in glory to receive "His own" to Himself (14:2, 3).

Now please look at 14:31; they all got up and left the Upper Room. Luke 22:30 helps us understand that Chapters 15, 16 and 17 were spoken as they proceeded toward the Mount of Olives. He might have stopped at a vineyard as He spoke of the Vine and the branches. As you fill in the answers with your pen, pray that the Holy Spirit will speak personally to you and also work in you so that you may have the peace of Jesus and serve Him as He has planned.

e. vs. 14, 15
d. v. 11
c. v. 8
b. v. 7
a. v. 5
8. What will be the results?
e. v. 12
d. v. 10
c. v. 9
b. vs. 7, 16
a. v. 2
pay? What does Jesus teach the fruit-bearing life will include?
7. Can you judge your life by the number of phone calls you make or visits you
6. Is there any other way? vs. 4, 5
5. What does abiding mean to you?
4. What is the law of fruit-bearing? v. 4
might want to talk this over with your Lord.)
pray about and work on? (You don't need to share this unless you so desire. You
is to appear in us. Are they all flowing forth from you? Are there any you need to
Copy this whole cluster—it is the 9-fold excellency of our Lord Jesus Christ that
3. What is the fruit? (Gal. 5:22, 23)
'He must increase, but I must decrease''' (John 3:30).
dying to self, and entering into a fuller fellowship with your self-denying Saviour.
desolation, with both your hands as a true opportunity and blessed occasion of
outward trouble, every disappointment, pain, uneasiness, temptation, darkness,
William Law advised this in his painful experiences: "Receive every inward and
say, "No, thank You, Lord"-we want to bear fruit but we don't want to suffer.
"Whom the Lord loves He chastens" (Heb. 12:6). It is at this point we want to
9. What is the warning in v. 69
branches? Why does the Father prune the branches?
1. Who is the Vine? Who is the Vinedresser? Who are the
CHAPTER 15 THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

be ashamed when I stand before Him? Is it my heart's desire to consistently seek us. We should ask, "Is my life bearing some fruit, more fruit, or much fruit? Will I The words of Jesus in this chapter should be very heart-searching to each one of

f. vs. 18-25

to turn others to righteousness by humbly abiding in Jesus and letting Him have

CHAPTER 16:5-15 THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

power of the Holy Spirit and "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Pentecost. Unlearned, humble Jews were sent out and strengthened with the sin, the need for righteousness and the certainty of judgment. He did this after Verses 9-11 mean the Holy Spirit would make men see more clearly the nature of What does "convict of sin" mean? despair. Why was it necessary for Him to leave? v. 7 the subject. He had become so necessary to them, they could see only hopeless haps the thought of His leaving was so painful they didn't even want to discuss 11. In v. 5 we see that the disciples did not even ask where Jesus was going. Per-12. What will the Holy Spirit do in the world?

a. v. 13a c. v. 14 b. v. 13b

13. What is the Holy Spirit's work in the believers now?

and also the victorious, coming One! He smooths the way by daily revealing to me my crucified, risen, ascended Lord Spirit are Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor and Strengthener called alongside to help." I love to think of the Holy Spirit in this way—always at pression—plus the major shocks of sorrow and rejection. Other words for the Holy my side to help in every temptation: fear, guilt, weakness, loneliness, despair, de-The original word for Holy Spirit in the Greek is "Paraclete," which means, "one



On Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Two down and one to go! No, I'm not reporting the score at the football field. Another game, much more important, was reported on in our Ambassador editorial a while back (Apr. 1) and it has been heavy on my heart since. It is the Game of Life, as it is experienced in spiritual combat. The "referee" is known as a Christian leader of Great Britain, the Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones of the evangelical school. This should lend credence to his "ratings," but to me that makes his verdict even more tragic. Especially is that so where a church body born in a revival, as ours, accepts such conclusions in silence.

Does the use of "techniques" such as used by Billy Graham, as altar calls, organizations, etc., rule out the power of the Holy Spirit? This seems to be the conclusion of our critic, Dr. Lloyd-Jones. Mr. Graham needs no defense. The testimony of hundreds of thousands who have found Life and a new start drowns out any such assertion. Who would even dare to insinuate that these results are the fruit of the right techniques and not of the power of the Holy Spirit. But—Dr. Lloyd-Jones seemingly does just that.

Another group that comes under his superficial scrutiny and is "disqualified" as "unscriptural" is the Keswick movement. He offers no Scriptural proof for his conclusion. Sanctification to him is rather a "process" than a matter of "letting go and letting God," as ascribed to the Keswick thinking. I can follow him to some extent. Growth takes time but unless God is in complete charge of this process, the sum total is failure. It took God 40 years to get Moses to a place where He could use him. The Keswick Movement is certainly clear on this. However, the process comes to full bloom as we "Let go and let God." Jacob discovered that at the River Jabbok after 21 years of self-effort. That is how I found peace

and assurance with God years ago and that is how I find victory in walking with Him. God doesn't change the rule after "induction." "As ye have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, so also walk in Him." So many individuals, churches and synods do and end up as unfruitful branches, as in Galatia. Quoting Hal Lindsey: "Christians have been bewildered at this continual trend away from God and have asked, 'Why?' In most cases the trend began in a departure from the grace of God into legalism."

We have learned to know the Keswick Movement through such able writers as Dr. John Hunter, Major Ian Thomas, Watchman Nee, Norman Grubb, Allan Redpath and others over the past few years. It has been a really rewarding experience with their emphasis on Christ in us as The Author but also The Finisher of our faith. Its teaching thus serves as a potent antidote to legalism which is creeping into churches, with its dull form and deadness. Christ came to bring life and even more than that, abundance. As "earthen vessels" our main function is to receive. "They that receive of His abundance shall reign." The "overflow" will be there. All He asks us to do is to bring our thirsting hearts to Him to be filled and out of that enoughter with the source will flow "rivers of living water." This is the emphasis of the Keswick Movement, as I know it. It is a return to apostolic teachings as handed down to us through the Apostle Paul in his tremendous epistle to the Romans and others. It leads us back to the Fountain Head, Jesus Christ and our possession in Him. "But of Him, are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

Pastor Karl Berg Wanamingo, Minn.

Bethany Camp to celebrate anniversary

The 40th anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Bible Camp on Grace Lake, Bemidji, Minn., will be noted on July 19 and 20. The theme will be "Forty Years of Grace."

On Saturday evening there will be a campfire service and on Sunday two services will be held, the first one at 10 a.m.

There will be camping facilities and meals available for visitors, for a freewill offering.

All who are interested in sharing in this festive time are invited to come.

Mrs. Arlene Schmidt

Personalities

Rev. and Mrs. John P. Strand, Fargo, N. Dak., were to return this week from a three-week trip to Norway. They left Fargo on June 19, flying to Oslo. The trip was a gift of appreciation to the Strands, when he left the office of the presidency after 15 years, from the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and the Women's Missionary Federation.

Teacher Wanted

St. Paul's Acadmey
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Cloquet, Minn. 55720
Secondary position open
Science/Math major preferred; other
majors considered
Some administrative duties
Experience preferred
Salary negotiable
Write to address above or call
1-218-879-3206 for further information.

The devil will extend plenty of credit, but think of the payment.

-Voice of the Valley Kalispell Lutheran Churches

INTERCESSION

God's intense longing to bless seems in some sense to be graciously limited by His dependence on the intercession that rises from the earth.

Andrew Murray

Women for Christ

Brandon, Minn.

The Chippewa WMF of Brandon, Minn., Rev. Gordon L. Grage, pastor, presented two of our members with Honorary Membership pins at a recent meeting. Those honored were Mrs. Irene Larson and Mrs. Leonard Schulte, along with several others who had received their pins before.

Here are the women honored. Back row, left to right, Mrs. Roy Strom, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Ted Scherrer, Mrs. Schulte and Miss Veryl Magnuson. Front row, Mrs. Eldor Stene, Mrs. Bob Thompson and Mrs. Evangeline Erickson.

Corr.



Bagley, Minn.

Ten children were honored at a Cradle Roll program on May 6 at Grace Lutheran in Bagley, Minn., Mauritz Lundeen, pastor.

Shown here with their mothers, they are, front row, left to right, Mrs. Paul Friborg, Justin and Jessica; Jo Lynn Friborg, daughter of the Gordon Friborgs; Mrs. David Friborg, Amy and Amanada; Mrs. Kenny Moen and Thomas; and Mrs. Sheldon Oien, Teresa and Sharon. Back row, Diane Harstad and Jeremy; and Mrs. Lyle Halvorson and Lori.



Rosedale, Mpls.



The Mary-Martha Circle of Rosedale Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn., spend Monday afternoons at the Nicollet Convalescent Home sewing name labels in patients' garments, doing some mending and trying to bring a little happiness to patients. Seated in the picture, left to right, are Mrs. Malmberg, Mrs. Howard Peterson, Mrs. Kuffel and Mrs. Alfred Peterson. Standing, Mrs. John Anderson, Miss Caroline Hansen and Mrs. Olson.

MRS. PEARL HOLTE HONORED

At their Mother's and Daughter's dinner on May 13th, the Women's Missionary Society of Faith Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minn., honored one of their faithful members, Mrs. Pearl Holte. Ann Miller, president, presented Mrs. Holte with an Honorary Membership and a pin.

Stella Olson introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Heide Hassenteufel of the World Mission Prayer League. She gave a challenging message on obedience to God's call in her life, going from East Germany to the U.S. and then as a WMPL missionary to Ecuador. Her husband is attending AFLTS in preparation for their return to Ecuador. Musical numbers included a duet by Gwen Haugen and Jean Jorgenson and a flute solo by Rebecca Valdez. Karen Kjos led in devotions from Psalm 31.

Rev. Ralph Rokke is pastor of Faith Lutheran Church.

News of the Churches

Pukwana, S. Dak.

The Bible study group that met in the homes and the young adult group meeting in Pukwana will begin again in the fall, but summer sessions will continue at the Myrtle Saukerson home in Chamberlain.

Blain Bairey and Todd Olson were confirmed on May 25.

In April, Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn., visited our parish. That Sunday night she showed pictures and told of her trip to the Holy Land. On Monday night she conducted a Sunday School workshop in Pukwana.

Special meetings for the parish were held in Pukwana with Pastor Wallace Jackson of Wallace, S. Dak., as guest speaker, April 13-17.

A new carpet has been installed at St. Olaf and the church has been shingled. A new church sign has been posted outside the church. The parsonage has new shingles but there is still some work to be done on the interior of the parsonage.

In April, two of the ladies of our church were honored on their birth-days. Alma Nelson, 80 years young, was honored by her family with an open house at the church and Clara Pearson, 79, was honored by her son and friends.

-Corr.

Stillwater, Kalispell

A beautiful service, lovely weather and a church full of friends welcomed 12 new members to the Stillwater congregation on April 13. A dinner was held in their honor. Pastor Dale Mellgren serves the church.

At a congregational meeting held on April 13 the decision was made to begin construction of an addition to the church structure. Groundbreaking took place on April 27. Over 100 came to watch Hans and Andora Tutvedt (50-year members) break ground. Pastors Mellgren and John Rieth (former pastor of the church) shared Scripture and prayer and everyone joined in singing, "The Church's One Foundation." All who attended

The Lutheran Ambassador

signed a scroll which will be on display in the new addition. Members and friends brought bags containing "30 pieces of silver" (nickels, dimes, etc.) and placed them in a wheelbarrow . . . contributions to the building up of God's house.

A reception was given for newlyweds Allen and Joann Herset at Stillwater.

Mrs. R. West

Willmar, Minn.

A new organ light and candlesticks were given to Zion Lutheran in Willmar recently. They were gifts by the families of Mr. and Mrs. John Farness, who went home to be with the Lord not long ago.

A new altar cloth was given in memory of Rev. Jonas Helland by Mrs. Helland and daughter Rachel.

Corr.



Holt, Minn.

A dedication service for church improvements was held on Sunday, Apr. 13, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, rural Holt, Minn. Rev. Eugene Enderlein is the pastor.

Dedicated were the remodeled kitchen and dining area, new storm windows in all church windows, folding tables and chairs, a new oil-fired forced air furnace, carpeting of the sanctuary, dropped ceiling and recessed lighting, paneled walls, church steeple and repainting of the church and reroofing. In addition a parcel of land adjoining

The Ladies Aid at Emmanuel

the church property and donated by Jay Garthus was included in the dedication.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and a former pastor of the church, was present for the occasion, preached the sermon and officiated at the dedication.

Mr. Robert Olson, president of the congregation, gave the welcome; Mr. Albert Swenson read the church history and Mr. Thomas Fillmore made the acknowledgments.



A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



Rest from our burdens

Matthew 11:28

"It's not wrong." This is what a teenage girl told me concerning her having broken God's sixth commandment. She was hospitalized in a psychiatric ward because of depression. On my previous visit she had answered me scarcely a word. Now on my second visit, she told me to "Get out!" Keeping her face covered with a blanket, she said, "Let me die." Instead of complying with her request. I remained and told her that I had come to offer her the help of Jesus Christ. After a time she uncovered her face and proceeded to talk. She informed me that she had a bad relationship with her parents because of her having broken the sixth commandment. Even though she was trying to excuse her sin by saying, "It's not wrong," I knew on the basis of the Bible that she was carrying a heavy burden of guilt.

Feelings of guilt come whenver we have violated the conscience which God has given to us. Our conscience warns us to not commit acts which conflict with God's moral laws. A person who had used drugs and alcohol in high school stated, "I thought I was cool at the time, but my conscience bothered me." This is the burden of guilt, and it's by far the heaviest of all burdens to bear. Such a burden is so extremely heavy because a guilty conscience is warning the sinner of judgment. Someone has said, "The judgments of conscience are not appealable. When conscience has spoken, its judgment in that particular case is irrevocable. Its verdict cannot be altered."

Many people who are carrying the burden of guilt are doing so because of having broken God's sixth commandment. Martin Luther said this commandment means that "We should fear and love God, that we may lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other." Some years ago a professor at a Lutheran seminary remarked to his class, "About 50 percent of all human misery is caused by the violation of this commandment." One of his students said that at that time most of the students did not believe it.

but that after a score of years in the ministry he knew that the professor was right. Yes, the burden of guilt from having broken this commandment is an exceedingly heavy one to bear.

I attempted to show this fact to the depressed girl in the hospital. Kindly I explained to her that in spite of what we might think, God says in His Word that her act is a sin. Sarcastically she asked me what she should do about it. Thus I told her that the only way to get release from our burdens is to come to Jesus with them and confess our sins to Him. Then He will give us rest. Finally, in prayer that girl brought her burden to Jesus and asked for forgiveness.

A few days later when I visited that girl again I could hardly believe that it was the same girl. Instead of hiding under the blanket, she was eating her meal with other patients. Instead of a depressed, hopeless expression, her face now had a happy, hopeful look. Instead of saying that she wanted to die, she said that she had much to live for. For though she knew that she had done wrong, she also knew by faith in God and His Word that He had forgiven all of her transgressions. She had brought her burdens to Jesus and received His blessed rest.

Friends, let us also bring to Jesus all of our burdens and receive His rest for our souls and bodies.

Conference Election results

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Vice-president

Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Secretary

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.

Youth Board

5 years

Rev. Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.

Board of Publications and Parish Education

5 years

Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.

Stewardship Board

4 vears

Mr. Roger Krueger, Amery, Wis.

5 years

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.

Board of Pensions

3 years

Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.

5 years

Rev. Ernest Langness, Faith, S. Dak.

Commission on Evangelism

5 years

Rev. James Gerdeen, St. Paul, Minn.

(The following elections were by respective corporations after nomination by the Conference.)

Co-ordinating Committee

5 years

Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Board of World Missions

3 years

Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.

5 years

Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.

Board of Home Missions

5 years

Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Board of Trustees

1 year

Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.

5 years

Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.

Corporation elections

The following persons were elected by their corporations to membership after nomination by the Conference on June 12:

Missions Corporation

Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.

Rev. Larry Severson, Boscobel, Wis. Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn. Rev. Forrest Swenson, Fergus Falls, Minn

Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Mrs. Charles Kvanvig, Vancouver, Wash.

Rev. Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn. Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Ariz.

Rev. Dean Casselton, Zumbrota, Minn.

Rev. Samuel Flores, Leon, Gto., Mexico

Schools Corporation

Rev. James Gerdeen, St. Paul, Minn. Rev. John P. Strand, Fargo, N. Dak. Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis. Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens,

Wash.
Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.
Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Rev. Philip Rokke, Reva, S. Dak.Mr. Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Abercrombie,N. Dak.

1981-82 Adopted Budget

1980-81 BUDGET

This is the budget which was adopted by the Annual Conference:

General Fund	\$135,980.00
Schools	226,146.00
Praise Fund	31,000.00
World Missions	218,880.00
Home Missions	197,200.00

\$809,206.00

This budget is \$226,969 higher than the current budget in the church.