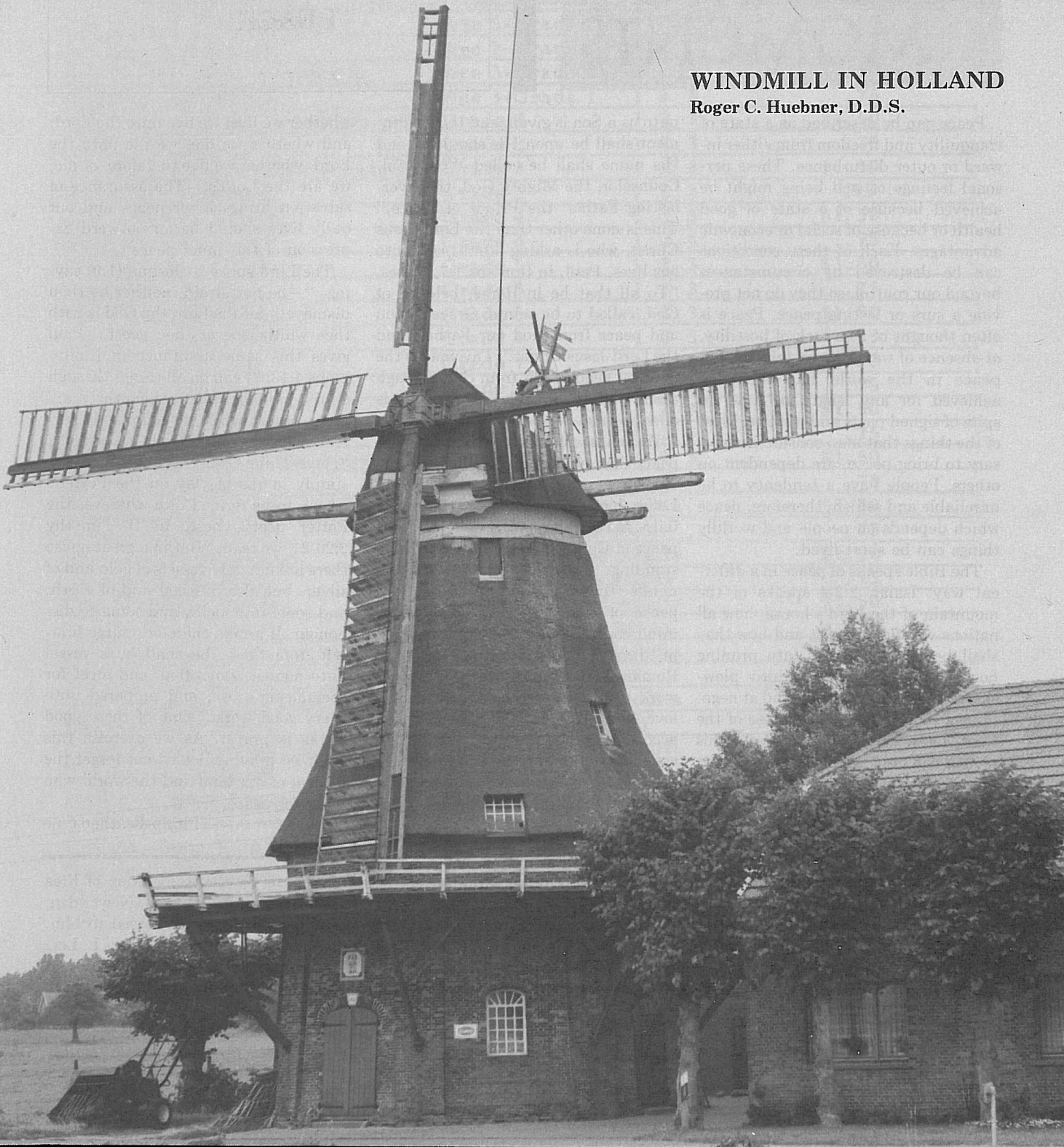


June 26, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador

WINDMILL IN HOLLAND

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

PEACE

Peace can be described as a state of tranquility and freedom from either inward or outer disturbance. These personal feelings of well being might be achieved because of a state of good health or because of social or economic advantages. Each of these conditions can be destroyed by circumstances beyond our control, so they do not provide a sure or lasting peace. Peace is often thought of as a lack of hostility, or absence of war. History tells us that peace in the world has not been achieved for any length of time, in spite of signed pacts and treaties. Most of the things that man considers necessary to bring peace, are dependent on others. People have a tendency to be unreliable and selfish; therefore, peace which depends on people and worldly things can be short-lived.

The Bible speaks of peace in a different way. Isaiah 2:2-4 speaks of the mountain of the Lord's house, how all nations will flow unto it and how they shall bend their spears into pruning hooks and their swords into plowshares. This peace is not found at negotiating tables, but at the house of the Lord, followed by great revival. This revival can only occur with the advent of the Prince of Peace. In Isaiah 9:6, we read, "For unto us a child is born, for

unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." This is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, who is asking admittance into our lives. Paul, in Romans 1:7, writes, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." This makes the Biblical peace a gift from God through Jesus Christ. Through faith this gift is ours to take.

We have established the fact that peace does not depend on outward circumstances, but rather on inner faith. Let us look at the results of that inner faith. In Philippians 4:7, we read, "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." The peace of God becomes a heart and mind control, with the assurance that in Christ we can claim the promise of Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." The greatest enemy of man is death, which robs those lacking the inner confidence of true peace. Romans 14:8 says, "For

whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." The assurance of salvation brings inner peace and our daily lives should be an outward expression of this inner peace.

The Lord spoke to Joshua (1:9) saying, "—be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Paul gives this same assurance in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Peace comes when we completely surrender to the will of God. In the song, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," we are simply lumps of clay on the Potter's wheel, to be formed into whatever the Potter deems best. In II Timothy 2:20-21, we read, "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." One of these good works is prayer. As we exercise this work by praying, let us not forget the leaders of our land and the world who labor for peace.

—Philip Featherstone

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The President's Message to the Church

To the 17th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, assembled at Whitefish, Montana, June 13-17, 1979.

Grace and Peace!

It is a joy to meet for conference in a setting so beautiful as the one in which we meet these days. We are reminded of the greatness of our God, "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?" (Isaiah 40:12).

To our hosts, Faith Lutheran and Stillwater Lutheran, we express our appreciation for the invitation to be here, and appreciation also for the preparations they have made to make our stay here a pleasant one.

It is a joy and a privilege to bring this my first report of the life and work of our church to you. May our vision be enlarged and may we be inspired to more dedicated service for Christ as we are here these days.

Perilous Times

Some of the events of the past year surely must cause us all to realize that we live in dark and difficult times. Much concern is expressed by Americans over the energy crisis, and whether or not we shall continue to be able to enjoy the standards of comfort and pleasure to which we have become accustomed.

The slide into immorality continues as convictions crumble and sex and violence increase in the media.

Under the guise of academic freedom, secular school systems, supported by tax money, teach evolution as a

fact, sex education without Biblical morality, history without God, and sensitivity training that denies the sanctity of the individual.

General use of illicit drugs is on the increase. At least 56% of high school seniors are said to have at least tried marijuana.

Secular humanism affirms that moral values derive their source from human experience. The result is that trial marriages, abortions and homosexuality are condoned by more and more people.

The mass murders and suicides of the Jonestown incident are examples of the tragic consequences of accepting men "for the good things that they do" instead of examining their doctrine in the light of God's Word.

The shock waves from the Jonestown atrocity in the Guyana jungle a few months ago continue to create a negative attitude toward religion in general. The result may be more government regulation and intervention in church affairs. The recent revelation of the alleged financial mismanagement of the World Wide Church of God can only increase such a possibility.

The cults continue to grow and flourish. A return to the authority of God's Word is the only answer to those who masquerade as Christian though they are far removed from Christian truth.

Elsewhere in the world, pollution and hunger are on the increase. One billion people on earth live in absolute poverty, at least 700 million of them are without enough to eat. It is estimated that in 1979 malnutrition will cause the death of 10 million persons, most of them infants and children.

Persecution of Christians increases in many countries of the world. Missionaries were martyred in Uganda, Rhodesia and Ethiopia.

Thousands of Vietnamese chose to brave 300 miles or more of open sea with all its uncertainties in order to escape Communism. Between 40 and 60% of them perished at sea. It is believed that in the month of November alone, some 25,000 died at sea while trying to escape in leaking boats. Illness, lack of food and ruthless murder by men of government patrol boats took the lives of others.

It seems that even nature is expressing a restlessness of the age in the reports of earthquakes and floods of recent weeks.

We could go on, but surely in the face of these things we need to be mindful of the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Timothy 3:1).

The Mission of the Church

If there ever was a day when the message of the church needed to be Christ-centered and Bible-centered, it is today. There are those who fear for the future of the church. We need to be reminded of Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." We also need the assurance of Christ's response to that confession—"upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The mission of Christ for the church has not and will not change. The welfare of man's eternal soul brought the Son of God to this earth, to be clothed in human flesh, that He might taste death for every man. The salvation of man's soul far outweighs the importance of any other issue before us today, be it human rights, inflation, or the energy crisis. The Great Commission to the church was, and is, to go to all the world with the message

of the Gospel—to make disciples by baptizing and teaching. When obedience to that command has been fulfilled we can also claim the promise, “and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

There are those who would accuse the members of the church of being indifferent to the needs of the displaced person, the hungry and the underprivileged. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has inevitably led to better social conditions and a higher standard of living. It is through the teachings of the Word of God that there comes a realization of the worth of the individual. Reforms are often slow because it requires a heart-change in many people. When Christ is received, the heart is changed, and the constraining love of Christ brings that compassion and caring in the heart of the believer that he is his brother's keeper. We in the AFLC must ever be aware of needs about us and, though we are small we must seek to do our part in showing Christ's love by our deeds of mercy.

Development and Growth

In just the short time that I have been in the office, it has been a joy to have visited a number of our congregations that are experiencing God's blessing, both in spiritual life and concern and in new members being added to the church. We hear good reports from other congregations that indicate the same experience. Several parishes have divided and called an additional pastor. We rejoice also in new work begun and congregations that are added to our fellowship.

The number of requests for information about our AFLC indicates that we may well expect to continue to see other congregations added to our church.

At the time of writing we are still striving to gather information from some congregations in order that we might publish an accurate statistical report. These reports are necessary for our office to report to other agencies. They can be meaningful to us also. We do need the cooperation of each pastor for this project.

Though we have much to thank God for in what is happening in our AFLC, we can never take for granted that we are growing in our devotion and dedi-

cation to Christ. This is our first priority and is the growth that is most pleasing to God.

Schools and Missions

Comments made to discourage affiliation with the Association in the days of our beginning were, “They don't have a seminary to train pastors,” and “They have no mission field.” As we looked to God for these needs, we found Him to be faithful in providing over and above what we even dared to hope.

Our seminary has trained the needed pastors for our parishes and enabled us to also begin work in a number of new areas. All six of the graduating seniors from our seminary this year have received calls and will be serving congregations in our AFLC. In spite of these additional full-time workers, we are facing a shortage of pastors. This shortage could become critical within the next two years. We have small graduating classes, and the need for expanding our home mission work is increasing. We would issue a call to prayer that “the Lord of the harvest send forth laborers into the harvest.”

We are indeed a privileged people to find a fine Bible School where our young people can become grounded in the Word. Our Bible-trained youth will continue to be a steadying and strengthening influence in our congregations.

Our World Mission work has taken on a more varied challenge with the addition of the support for work in Mexico and India. We believe this is good for us to have a broader view of missions.

An expanding work in World Missions, added staff in other areas of the work, and inflation all contribute to an ever increasing budget. The Association will need to place a greater emphasis on Home Missions in the next few years, in order that we might have a broader base of support for a growing program in other areas.

Director of Development

The Coordinating Committee in cooperation with the Stewardship Board has issued a call for the position of Director of Development in our church. It is hoped that by conference time we

might be able to announce who this person will be. Past conferences have called for someone to serve in this needy area and we believe that a man in this position will be instrumental in strengthening our work and increasing the potential of our outreach.

Evangelism

We thank God for the interest in and the sense of need for evangelism that is evidenced in our congregations. After three years of serving as our evangelist, Pastor David Molstre is returning to the parish ministry. God has blessed and used him. A new man has been called, but at the time of this writing the call has not as yet been accepted. Because it is God's will that all men be saved, the task of reaching lost souls must have our best effort. It would be good if we could turn the task over to mass evangelism. A survey of one of the major efforts of mass evangelism indicates that only 3% of those making decisions follow through to an active participation in the church. Though we do not minimize the importance of the 3%, it helps us to see the importance of the personal witness of every member of a congregation. We need more Andrews bringing their brothers to Christ.

Stewardship

The giving in the Association for the year ending January 31, 1979, was again most encouraging. Though we were about 5% short of reaching our budget goal, the giving increased over the previous year by almost 18%. A quick review of the receipts over the past five years indicates that the giving in our AFLC has doubled during that period of time. We are encouraged by the faithfulness and concern for the work evidenced by our people. We thank God for your commitment.

We face some very important decisions on the various budgets this week. The total request from all departments was \$602,430.00. The Budget Analysis Committee has pared this down to \$569,237.00. This still represents an increase of 35% over the receipts of last year. It is easy to approve budgets. It becomes another matter to bring the funds in.

Our biggest problem is that we fall

(Continued on page 8)

A Page of Conference News

Some brief items from the Annual Conference in Whitefish earlier this month. A fuller report will follow next time.

ELECTIONS AT THE CONFERENCE

Vice-president

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

Secretary

Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.

Commission on Evangelism

5 years

Lay Pastor Burton Rygh, Greenbush, Minn.

4 years

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Spicer, Minn.

Board of Publications and Parish Education

Mrs. James Foster, McIntosh, Minn.

Youth Board

Mr. David Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Stewardship Board

Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Board of Pensions

Mr. Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

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

Co-ordinating Committee

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Board of Trustees

5 years

Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.

4 years

Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.

3 years

Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

Board of World Missions

Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Board of Home Missions

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Minn.

1980-81 BUDGET

This is the budget which was

adopted by the Annual Conference:

General Fund	\$104,140.00
Schools	179,802.00
Praise Program	36,407.00
World Missions	156,636.00
Home Missions	105,252.00
	<hr/>
	\$582,237.00

This budget is \$100,602 higher than the current budget in the church.

WHERE THE DELEGATES CAME FROM

Here is a breakdown on where the 274 delegates to the Annual Conference came from. In all, there were 219 lay persons and 55 pastors and lay pastors.

Arizona—2	North Dakota—73
Illinois—2	Oregon—12
Iowa—4	South Dakota—18
Michigan—10	Washington—20
Minnesota—89	Wisconsin—8
Montana—34	Brazil—1
	Mexico—1

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Delegates voted to purchase the former Osceola Air Force radar base in Wisconsin for the sum of \$200,000. The complex of some 18 buildings on 80 acres of land seemed too good a proposition to pass up. The property has possibilities as a retreat center, a Bible camp and a retirement home. The purchase will be made with annuity and legacy money.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, new evangelist in the AFLC, and Mr. Ernest Miedema, first director of development in the church, were installed in their offices at the closing service of the 17th annual conference. Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC preached the sermon and conducted the installation. Pastor Pentti will continue to hold the position of youth worker as well, but another person will later be named to that position, according to conference action. Mr. Miedema's job will be part-time to begin with.

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOLS CORPORATION

Chairman—Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.

Vice-chairman—Rev. Bruce Dala-ger, Mentor, Minn.

Secretary—Rev. Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.

Treasurer—Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Ralph Rokke, has resigned as pastor of the McIntosh, Minn., parish (Calvary, Trinity, Mt. Carmel) to accept a call to Rosedale and Faith Lutheran Churches in Minneapolis, Minn. He will take up his work there later this summer. The joint call to a pastor is a first for the two Twin Cities congregations.

IN THESE END TIMES

(This poem was written by Mr. Sam Spading of Kirkland, Wash., and read by him at the opening service of the Conference.)

Men are filled with apprehension,
Yet there is no comprehension
As the prophecies in Scripture
Keep fulfilling every day;
No true leaders in the nation,
There's a specter of starvation,
Men have turned their face from God
And each has turned his own sad way.

As in the time of Noah,
Man is seeking worldly pleasures
And he's storing up his treasures
Where moth and rust corrupt.
All mankind is turning inward;
There's distrust toward one another;
We're not seeking heavenly guidance
And the end will be abrupt.

No man can tell exactly
The hour the Lord's returning,
Yet the very fact He will
Is stated clearly in His Word.
So gather, all you Christians,
Be assured of your salvation;
Let us be about our mission,
We must make our voices heard.

The proclaiming of the Gospel
Is the duty of His servants;
Yet you serve another master
If your silence isn't broken,
For the gift of life eternal

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Evangelistic Meetings

by Pastor Herbert Franz

EVANGELISM TODAY

Many congregations have at least one week of evangelistic meetings each year. This is an excellent idea, but we must remember, however, that evangelism should be the church's mission all year. Some churches have a week of special meetings only because it has been a long-standing tradition in their church and when the week of meetings is over the people breathe a sigh of relief. God forbid such "evangelism."

The Church is in constant need of renewal. Dr. George Sweazy said that of every two persons received into the Christian Church through profession of faith, one has dropped out. In many of our Lutheran churches, we could say the same. How many of our confirmands remain true to their vows after confirmation? How many of these young people do we see attending church regularly after they are confirmed? That is why we need an ongoing program of evangelism (which includes special evangelistic meetings and Bible conferences each year) in order to reach these people.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been called to evangelize. What is *evangelism*? It is winning men and woman to Jesus Christ. It is reaching out to fallen mankind with the Gospel of Christ. Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." The Church's message is summed up in the words of Christ in John 3:16. We need to tell people that God loves them and He desires that they repent of their sins and place their trust in Jesus Christ. Evangelism is to make each person conscious of his own need for a personal decision for Christ. Salvation is a matter of life or death! It is that urgent! Evangelism is therefore so important that it must go on 365 days a year. Unless a church (in sermons and personal visitation and confrontation) is kept continually reminded of the urgent motives for evangelism, it will inevitably drift away from it. Unless the Church is a witnessing, living, caring fellowship in the com-

munity, the Church ceases to function as a mission of the Lord.

Why do we need evangelism *within* our churches? Are not all the people saved? How many really have assurance of their salvation? Ask them the question: "If you should die tonight and you should come to the portals of glory and Jesus should ask you, 'What right do you have to enter into My heaven,' what would you say?" Many people within our churches would not know what to say. Is baptism enough to save? How about the Lord's Supper? The catechism tells us that the Sacraments are only efficacious when they are received with a response of FAITH in the heart. What is faith? "I truly believe in Christ when I heartily accept Christ as my Lord and Savior and trust in Him alone for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation." Receiving Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved (John 14:6, John 1:12, I John 5:12). Evangelism presents this truth to people.

Is there any difference in the concept of evangelistic meetings today as compared to years ago? Today there is much evangelism which preaches *commitment without repentance of sin* and this produces spiritual "stillbirths." It's like placing a bandage on a festering sore instead of taking out the infection, and the last state is worse than the first. Many are offended when a preacher asks for a decision from people brought up in the church, but we are missing the mark if we don't invite people to come to Christ. When I was a young boy, a peddler lady visited our home and spread out all her merchandise in front of my mother in order to make a sale. Wouldn't she have been foolish if she had left her sales book in the car and never asked my mother if she wanted to buy anything? The same is true in presenting Jesus Christ to people. We need preaching in our churches today that compels individuals to make a personal decision to repent of their sin and receive Jesus Christ as their own Savior and Lord.

Is a promise to all people
From our Father up in heaven,
In a vision was it spoken.

Prepare your life as you would have it
For the Lord gave you the free will
To act upon His message
And the choice will be your own.
As for me, the words of Joshua
Ring out clearly from God's history,
And for me and mine
They truly set the tone:
"Choose ye this day whom ye will
serve,
But as for me and my house,
We will serve the Lord!"

Women for Christ

RURAL KENYON CHURCH HAS WOMEN'S GATHERING

The Minneapolis District Women's Missionary Federation met for their spring rally on Tuesday, April 17, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of rural Kenyon, Minn.

Our theme was "Look Up and Reach Out," using two Scripture passages for the theme verses: John 4:35b and Romans 10:15. The theme song was "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations."

Registration preceded the morning session which began at 10:00. The WMF of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Zumbrota, Minn., served a morning coffee-time before the meeting began.

Mrs. Marlin Benrud, president, presided over the meeting. The theme song was sung and Mrs. Jan Skramstad of Victory in Christ Lutheran Church of St. Paul, Minn., shared in devotions from I Corinthians 15. Mrs. Audrey Hjermstad, the local president, extended a welcome.

Mrs. Ruth Reppe, a pastor's wife from the Wanamingo-Stordahl parish of Wanamingo, Minn., presented a narration on some women of the Bible and included several songs, "He Touched Me," "Reach Out," and "How Beautiful Upon the Mountain."

During the morning business meeting, there was a vote to accept two amendments to our by-laws. There was
(Continued on page 16)



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



SUGAR AND CREAM FOR PAUL

Quickly, Paul poured the cereal bowl half full of sugar. Then, from a pitcher he almost brimmed the bowl with rich, thick cream. With a spoon, he stirred this until the sugar and cream were well mixed.

He put the cream pitcher back into the refrigerator, the sugar bowl in the cupboard. Then, smacking his lips, he carried the bowl of sugar and cream down to the cool basement and greedily ate.

His stomach was round and hard when he carried the emptied bowl back to the kitchen. There he rinsed it and his spoon in the sink. He dried them and put them away, so there would be no tell-tale signs of the feast he had just sneaked.

Once in a while, Mom would fix Paul's favorite supper—slices of bread spread with cream and sprinkled with sugar. Sometimes, when he asked, she would give him a small saucer of sugar and cream. But never until now had he ever had as much sugar and cream as he liked to have.

He slipped out of the house. He didn't care to go to the garden where Mom and the rest of the family were busy. So he hurried out and found his red hen instead, and fed her and her chicks some cracked corn.

Suddenly, he heard his name called, and he almost jumped into the air. It was Ann saying, "Paul, come and get some ice cream. We're having some ice cream!"

Ice cream! Paul liked ice cream even better than sugar and cream. On a hot

summer afternoon, nothing ever tasted as good as ice cream.

But this time, he didn't feel like running as fast as he usually did when ice cream was announced.

In the kitchen he found his sisters and brothers already feasting on home-made ice cream. As Paul sat down, Mom set a big dish of delicious ice cream before him and beamed at him, "There you are, Son. Have a good time!"

Paul said, "Thank you," but he didn't look at Mom. He picked up his spoon and ate slowly. He began to wonder if he'd ever be able to eat all of that big mound of ice cream. The other children were having second helpings—and Mark his third helping—when at last Paul downed his last spoonful.

Right away, Mom was there to give him a second helping.

"Oh, no, please," begged Paul. "I don't care for any more, Mom. Thanks."

Mom looked at him in astonishment. "No more ice cream? Well, I'm surprised!" And the sisters and brothers all stared at him, hardly able to believe that Paul would refuse a second helping of ice cream.

Soon he went quietly to the bathroom, then on up to his own room. He felt miserable, and had lain on his bed only a few minutes when Mom appeared, looking anxious. She asked him, "Don't you feel well?"

"Oh, I'm all right."

"You don't have any pain anywhere?"

"No."

"Maybe you'd like to take a nap."

A nap wasn't something that Paul ordinarily cared about, but right now there wasn't anything he'd rather do. "Uh huh, I'd like to take a nap."

Mom's eyes blinked with wonder, but she only said, "Then you just take a nap."

Soon after, Paul was asleep. He awoke when the dinner gong rang for supper. He got up, hurried to the bathroom, and then downstairs to the kitchen where the family was sitting down to a supper of home-made bread spread with cream and sprinkled with sugar.

Mom smiled at him, "Hi, Paulie. You had a nice long nap. Now you can have your favorite supper—bread with cream and sugar."

But after Grace had been said, and Dad began to cover a slice of bread with thick cream for him, Paul wanted to get up from the table and run away. He couldn't bear even a spoonful of that cream!

He hung his head and begged, "Please, Dad, I don't want any supper."

Mom was alarmed when she overheard this. "Paulie, you can't be well!"

"Oh, I'm all right. I'm—just—not hungry."

"Would you like to go back to bed?"

"I guess I'd just as soon."

In his room, away from the sight of cream and sugar, Paul felt better. However, he kept thinking about that bowl full of sugar and cream that he had eaten, and he knew that no one—

not even Mom—had guessed. Nobody in the family would ever be able to find out.

A little while later, Mom and Dad came up to see him. Mom felt of his forehead and remarked, "Well, you don't have any fever."

Dad sat on the bed beside Paul. "Something the matter, Son? It just is not like you not to want to have any supper—especially when it's bread with sugar and cream."

Paul felt sick at the thought of the sugar and cream, and he wondered if he'd ever want to eat a supper of bread with cream and sugar again. Certainly he wouldn't want another bowl plumb full of sugar and cream, ever!

Suddenly, he wanted to get rid of this guilty feeling that had filled him ever since he had sneaked that sugar and cream. That guilty feeling was much worse than to have the sick, stuffy feeling in his stomach.

He burst into tears, and crawled into his father's lap, sobbing, "I sneaked—a whole bowl of sugar and cream—and ate it all—this afternoon."

"Oh," said Mom, with lifted eyebrows, "just before we had that ice cream?"

"Yes, just before we had that ice cream. And I'm sorry."

"Poor Paulie-boy!" Dad held him tight. Then soon Dad was shaking with laughter. First thing Paul knew, he was laughing, too. And he wasn't feeling sick any more. He had told on himself—and he could laugh again. It was ever so much better than keeping that guilty feeling!

MEMORY VERSE: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Why didn't Paul want to go out where his mother was, after he had eaten the sugar and cream?

2. Can a guilty feeling make you sick?

3. Criminals have always tried to commit the "perfect crime"—that is, do something wrong without anyone else ever finding it out. Had Paul managed to steal without anyone in the family learning about it, before he told on himself?

4. Once in a while, a bad person is able to steal or to kill without ever being caught. But what is it that the criminal can never run or hide from? (His conscience—Psalm 32:3; 38:4; John 8:9; Romans 2:15; I John 3:20)

5. Who besides Paul knew of his stealing, even before Paul confessed it to his parents? (Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:1-3; Luke 12:2)

6. As soon as Paul had told his parents about his wrongdoing, his guilty feeling was gone and he was happy. Is this the way with us when we confess our sins to God? (I John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13)

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(Continued from page 4)

so far behind during the summer months. This is of deep concern to the Stewardship Board. The answer, of course, is that we could receive more of the funds from congregations earlier in the year and somehow prevent the period of the summer slump.

Pastor's Salaries

We have not made a survey of the salaries of our pastors this year. This has been done every two years, and is now scheduled for the fall. Our concern is that the rate of inflation is probably increasing more rapidly than the increase in salary for most of our pastors. We would urge congregations to be mindful of the needs of the man of God that they have called. We would desire that all our pastors might be able to labor in their places of ministry without the undue concern for the physical needs.

Lutheran Brotherhood Colloquium

Eight men from the AFLC participated in the Colloquium on the Church in Future Society. The Colloquium, sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood, was held in Houston, Texas, January 29-February 2. The Colloquium was unique in that the 250 church leaders were from 10 Lutheran Church bodies. Topics presented were intended to

challenge the participants with the reality of change and to stimulate planning that would strengthen the Lutheran Church, especially on the congregational level.

We appreciate this effort on the part of Lutheran Brotherhood on behalf of the local congregation. The Association has its strong emphasis on the congregation as the right form of the kingdom of God on earth. We concur with the emphasis that we need a greater participation and involvement on the part of all lay people in our congregations.

If some of the futurists are correct, we may not have a long time left in the present scheme of things. How vital it is that we get our priorities straight. Let us seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Let us live with eternity's values in view.

(Omitted here is the list of Events of Special Interest, such as installations, dedications and anniversaries. This list may be found in its entirety in the 1979 Annual Report, available later this year.)

Thanks

Though I am still in the first year in serving as your president, I express a deep gratitude to God for such an opportunity. I want to express my appreciation for the confidence you have placed in me, and yet I know that the sufficiency is of God alone. I want to express my thanks also for the complete support I have sensed among all of you. Your prayers are a vital necessity for those who are to give leadership in the church. Let us move ahead into the uncertainties of the '80's with a confidence and joy in our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Snipstead
President, AFLC

REMINDER TO PASTORS

Topic guides were mailed out to all pastors recently, suggesting themes upon which articles for the *Ambassador* could be written. They have been coming back, but slowly.

Please return them to the Editor at Box 128, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Thank you.

editorials

WE ASK YOUR ATTENTION

This is one of those awkward moments in the publication of a church paper. The date of publication of this issue comes after the Annual Conference of the church ends and yet our deadlines make it necessary to prepare the main body of material ahead of time. We hope that you understand. However, we are able to give you one page of conference news. You will find some election results and business actions there. The remainder of our coverage of Annual Conference, 1979, will have to wait until later. In addition, the feature "Life on the Edge of Town" was written from Whitefish just preceding the opening of the conference. We knew that the setting there would be conducive for writing that column this time.

And today we bring the President's message to the church almost in its entirety. Omitted is the list of special events during the past year. That list will be contained in the Annual Report available to the congregations later this year.

The annual message is Pastor Snipstead's first. You will read it with interest because it is the leader of the fellowship taking a look at the world, at the church and at the Lord's commission and promises. We commend the President's message to you.

In this issue we are beginning a series on Evangelism, sharing some thoughts on the subject by Pastor Herbert Franz. Few of our pastors have been more involved in the evangelistic series of meetings than he. Out of his practical experience and study he has prepared some helps in looking at and preparing for evangelistic services. In the next months we will serialize this information on evangelism. This will be helpful, too, as a new evangelist begins his work in the AFLC. And the articles come hard upon our recent special issue on the subject of Evangelism.

One more thing about this issue of the *Ambassador*. We are glad to be able to present the article by Pastor Roger Ose, "To Know God's Will." We like it for the reason that he writes freely about his experience with cancer, a continuing experience for him. What he writes is mindful of Job, but in much gentler tones than Job he also asks the question "why?".

It is an age old question and no one knows the complete answers. But we admire someone who is willing to share his inner thoughts in a crisis situation and to tell about how he searches for that greatest of all goals, the will of God. We think that Roger Ose's article will prove helpful to many who are going through the same things or are watching a loved one or close friend who is.

There are other good things in this issue to which we would like to have called special attention also. We trust that you will find something, several things which will speak to your need. God bless you.

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD AID RECEIVED

A grant of \$750 was received from Lutheran Brotherhood, fraternal life insurance company, 1978-79 school year for seminary student support. Our Scholarship and Grant-In-Aid Committee made the selection of recipients based on the needs evidenced by information stated on the application forms turned in by the students. The money was equally divided and given to four grateful students.

Also this year, Lutheran Brotherhood gave all first-year students and all full-time seminary faculty and staff members a beautiful Panasonic tape recorder and cassette carrying case.

We are also very pleased to report that beginning January 1, 1980, Lutheran Brotherhood will expand their matching gifts program, IMPACT (Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges Throughout the United States) to include Lutheran Theological Seminaries. Packets with

further information concerning this will be sent out to all our congregations as soon as this new material is received.

The maximum amount to be matched by Lutheran Brotherhood members is \$100 per member per calendar year. An individual gift must be at least \$10 to qualify.

Special thanks to Lutheran Brotherhood for their gracious aid to our Seminary.

—Submitted

GOD'S HANDIWORK

Driving West towards the Rocky Mountains late one September afternoon, I saw a sight I shall never forget. The sky was leaden, with just one break in it which framed Long's Peak rearing its head 14,000 feet through the gap. The sun was dipping behind this snow-crowned peak. Through the break I saw lovely, glistening, pure white clouds. The sun's rays were streaming down the mountain sides, bordering the clouds with brilliant gold. All the rays needed were rungs across them to have formed a golden ladder set up between heaven and earth. To me, indeed, it seemed like a glorious stairway to Paradise. I half expected to see God seated at its head, the sun His halo, and angels ascending and descending on it, much as in Jacob's dream.

Many is the time I have crossed the Rockies, driving through those glistening white clouds, only to find that they were damp grey fogs, and the rocks were hard and bare. My physicist friends tell me the rocks and clouds are just differing arrangements of protons, neutrons and electrons. The building blocks of our universe.

Every May, dainty and fragrant Lilies of the Valley bloom in our garden. The botanist describes their cellular construction, their manner of life and reproduction. The chemist says they are organic chemicals, principally hydro-carbons, descendants of my stairway to Paradise. The physicist reiterates they are protons, neutrons and electrons. However, a mysterious something has been added called life. They do something that the rocks do not. They grow, they reproduce, they can mutate. "Consider the lilies, how they grow," said Jesus.

Five o'clock June mornings, the Sun peeps through our bedroom window, waking us up to God's symphony: the songs of the birds. The wren is our concert master. The dove sitting on our telephone wires adds his muted notes. The red-headed woodpecker supplies the percussion. The robins and the orioles form a chorus and the blue-jay injects his modern best with his raucous discords, and the chirping sparrows furnish volume, if nothing else. What are these birds? The biologist tells of their cells, nerves and vital or-

gans. How they live and reproduce. The chemist and the physicist repeat the old refrain: just chemicals consisting of protons, neutrons and electrons. Cousins of Long's Peak, the glorious clouds and fragrant lilies, but still more has been added to them.

They move from place to place. They experience hunger, thirst, love and fear. They choose their own mates to reproduce, not depending upon the bees as do the lilies. They exhibit a limited wisdom, and a certain prudence in addition to sharing life with the lilies. Even the twittering sparrows that used to sell five for one almost useless farthing are part of God's loving plan, for Jesus says that not one of them is forgotten before God. They occupy a valuable niche in His plan.

One day I saw my granddaughter trying to feed a chipmunk in our garden. Again the biologist tells us a lot about her; not all, as there are still unsolved mysteries. The chemist says she is mostly water and organic chemicals, worth about fifty cents (before inflation—Ed.), no more. No more, do they say? Jesus said: "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" What a scale of values! The physicist tells us again she is of the same substance as the rocks, the lilies, the chipmunk; nothing but protons, neutrons and electrons. She shares with the lilies and the birds a subconscious something, which I, an engineer and no biologist, call life, which passes on the ability to reproduce duplicates of the parent plants and animals. But to body and life, a conscious intangible something, that no man has ever seen or touched, has been added, which we know is present, for we see the results. It is more than the automatic subconscious life common to plants and animals.

... "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground," protons, neutrons and electrons, "and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living soul," not a living animal; "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him." The soul being in God's image, not a god, not God. An image is a likeness to, a conception of the real thing.

P. Buchan

Perhaps I Was Dreaming

PERPLEXITIES

In times of great bewilderment my soul hath cried within itself:

What art Thou trying to do, great Spirit of the universe?

I have seen Thee strew the infinite with flaming worlds, then blot them out in endless night.

I have seen Thee robe this earth of ours with tender verdure, soft and cool, then burn it up or freeze it down.

I have heard Thee hum sweet music through the trees Thy hands had reared a thousand years, then turn upon them suddenly and root them up with one cyclonic blast.

I have seen Thee heave the Dinosaur from out the deep and let him loose upon a thousand helpless things, then call him back and plant forget-me-nots where he had trod.

I have heard Thee wail through Schopenhauer, Hartmann, Nietzsche, some poor maniac with shredded soul, or some lone infant on its mother's corpse, then smile Thy roseate dawn as if there were no sorrow in the world.

What art Thou trying to do? Why hast Thou built this universe, this vast enigma, this huge cave to echo back our questions? If there a purpose in it—this aeonian throb of wedding bliss and funeral dirge—or is it but a lawless dance of atoms in my own poor brain?

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest . . . for what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

Son of God, was that Thy voice, so gentle and so kind?—Then hush thee, O my soul, and wait upon the Lord. For then the morning star will yet appear; the day break o'er the hills; the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings.

C. A. Wendell

To Know God's Will

by Pastor Roger Ose

For nearly a year I have been in and out of hospitals trying to find healing for my cancer. In some ways, this might be considered a wasted year. I have spent so many hours flat on my back in the University of Minnesota Cancer Hospital. In other ways, it has been very productive. I have had time for thinking and reflection rarely offered a busy working person, age 44.

One theme that comes to mind again and again is God's will. What is God's will for me? Is lymphoma cancer really a part of God's will for me? Didn't it sort of cut off our work as missionaries in Madagascar?

Called to World Missions

My wife and I believed we were called by God to serve overseas in the world mission program of our church. We left for Madagascar in 1971. Suddenly, in the spring of 1978, we learned that I probably had cancer. I left the field immediately and came home for tests. Sure enough. Stage four cancer. My family soon followed me to the States.

Why does God do things that way? Not too many young people seem ready or willing to serve overseas as missionaries. Yet we, who wanted so much to continue in Madagascar, were forced to come home because of illness. I have puzzled over God's economy in doing things this way. His system doesn't really make sense just now. If He were playing the stock market like that, He wouldn't be making a million.

But then, His ways have puzzled me before. My sister and her infant baby were killed in a car-truck accident shortly before they and their family were hoping to serve as missionaries overseas. My dad lay in the hospital convalescent unit eight years before he died, unable to speak, or walk, or use his right side. Now I have cancer. How does it all add up?

It doesn't. I have tried to reason it out physically, or mathematically, or philosophically. I draw a blank every time. Why? Why? WHY ME, LORD? There is no answer to that "why?." Not

yet, anyway. Time and again I have turned to the Lord and prayed the opening words of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in God."

God Opens Doors

I believe God called us to Madagascar. I believe God opened the door for us to serve there seven years. Now I believe God is closing that door—maybe permanently. A new door opened, and it led to the third floor of a cancer hospital. When that door closes, and I am healed, a new door will open. But I have found that God cannot open a new door one year down the road if I am unwilling to go through the door that stands open this hour, this moment. An open door is one very good indication of God's will for my life. I believe that God also closes doors. Today that closed door may be very confusing and hard to understand, but I believe that maybe five years from now I will understand it as part of God's will for me.

He Doesn't Rubber Stamp

God doesn't rubber-stamp our plans when we insist on going against what we know is God's will. Jesus said (Matt. 6:33):

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be yours as well."

A dozen years ago I performed the wedding for a young couple. The girl knew her future husband was not a Christian and that her parents had grave misgivings about the marriage. But she insisted on going ahead with it, knowing that God would add His blessing to what she was doing. It hasn't worked out that way at all. She has spent many agonizing hours trying to make right the things that repeatedly go wrong in their home. What went wrong? It's rather hard for God to rubber-stamp our actions when we know we are going against His will.

His Will Is Peace

Our nation has been a leader in uniting the people of Israel and Egypt. I surely think that is what Jesus meant when he said (Matt. 5:9):

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

On the other hand, I have seen U.S. military equipment in Denmark, England, Germany, France, Italy, Israel, Egypt, Madagascar, South Africa and Brazil. How can our nation keep pouring military equipment into other countries in the name of "keeping the peace"? For hours this past year I have puzzled over the grave mistake my generation is making by being arms supplier to a good share of the world. Future generations may well curse us. I fear not that future generations will judge us to have lived badly, but that we may be judged never to have lived at all.

God's Will Brings Peace

When I finished college I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do. One day in March, 1957, when I was cleaning barn on my father's farm, it hit me. "Roger, you should be a pastor." I asked the Lord to give me peace in leaving the farm and going into seminary. That peace came. One door after another opened and I was able to finish seminary training.

Even here in my hospital room I have found a new dimension to peace. I have claimed these words from Phil. 4:7:

"And the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
will keep your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus."

God's Will and a Long Life

I have realized that even if cancer gets me in the near future, my life will have been complete. Many people live to see 80 years or more. Others have their lives snuffed out when they are young. It's not so important how long people live, but how well. Consider the impact these people made on our world—folks who never reached age 50:

John F. Kennedy, died	
at	46
Robert Kennedy,	43
Martin Luther King, Jr.	39

Dietrich Bonhoeffer	39
Felix Mendelssohn	38
Vincent Van Gogh	37
Jesus Christ	33
Alexander the Great	32
(one source gives age 33)	
Nathan Hale	21
King Tutankahmun	18

Each of these people left his mark. They lived out the time God gave to them. Earlier this year, when I was visiting King Tutankahmun's grave in Egypt, I read Psalm 139:16:

"In thy book were written, every one of them,

the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them."

In those words I caught a glimpse of God's magnificent plan. Before I was even born, He wrote down the day of my death. If He already knows it, why should I worry about it. I believe God's grace will sustain me every hour of my life. That's great news!

Live in Forgiveness

Many of the little irritations that bother me have sort of gone by the way this year. I have deeply regretted angry words with my father, or grudges I have held against friends. God's will is that I live in daily forgiveness and renewal. God's will is that I overlook many little hurts or slights, in order to be on good terms with the family of God. How much time is wasted in church as we haggle over little insults or injuries! In our family devotions each evening, one of the precious times is when we ask forgiveness for what we have done that hurt another family member. Then as we pray, we ask God for forgiveness for what we have done that hurt Him that day. We can go to sleep at night with forgiven, clean hearts.

Reading the Word

Finding God's will for each day is not as automatic as sunrise. I believe that His plan unfolds as we spend time meditating on the Word. I can remember memorizing Psalms when I was a boy. I learned the entire Sermon on the Mount when I was in college. The Word has had a powerful effect in

showing me God's will for my life. As I have spent time in the hospital this year, I have spent hours reading the Psalms.

"I have laid up Thy Word in my heart,

that I might not sin against Thee . . .
Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous

things out of Thy law"
(Psalm 119:11, 18).

Sometimes I think we run around in circles. How can that be avoided? I have found that setting my sights in the morning by reading God's Word gives me a perspective for each day. God has chosen to reveal His will through the Word.

Prayer

God reveals His will through prayer. What is prayer? It is opening up my heart to God. I can tell him my deepest hurts and anxieties:

"My soul melts away for sorrow"
(Psalm 119:28).

"Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O LORD!

Lord, hear my voice! Let Thy ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!"
(Psalm 130:1, 2).

When I pray, I don't have to pile up empty phrases. I just pour out my heart and face myself and my God honestly. Through prayer in my hospital room I have found a peace that I rarely see in the non-Christian patients on my floor. As I contemplate death, I talk with God about it. What is His answer?

"Even though I walk through the valley

of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

Live in Praise

God's will is that I live praising Him. That means I am to enjoy what I am doing. I can remember my dad driving tractors in the field. Above the roar of the tractor engine I could sometimes hear him singing hymns or whistling a

merry tune. He liked farming. He LOVED farming. Time and again he thanked the Lord for a good day, and a good harvest. He even thanked the Lord when there was no harvest in the dry years. He helped me see that living in praise and enjoying my work is so important. Again, I find his outlook expressed in the Psalms (Psalm 119:164, 175):

"Seven times a day I praise Thee for Thy righteous ordinances . . .

Let me live, that I may praise Thee."

Maybe the course of my life would be much different if I had not had this year to meditate on God's will. I know one thing, the opening words of the Apostles' Creed surely give me confidence as I face the unknown—"I believe in God." There I rest my case. He knows my tomorrows. And He is giving me joy today as I am hooked up to this chemotherapy machine. What a privilege to live in His will today.

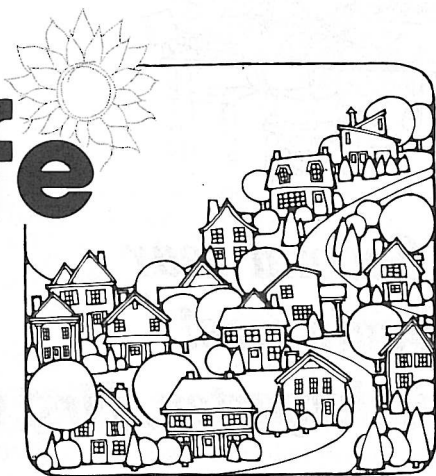
WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE BOOK PURGED

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, author of *Purged*, the story of God's sustaining grace in his life while he was a patient in a mental hospital, has placed his book for sale in a considerable number of retail outlets in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The list of them is too long to be included here. Other outlets will be added in other states.

Anyone interested in buying this book, which also contains suggested helps for those who are facing depression, should inquire about the book at a local Christian bookstore.

Purged may be ordered directly from Pastor Mundfrom at 1548 Patagonia Road, Nogales, Ariz. 85621, and John Mundfrom, 715 32nd Ave. No., Fargo, N. Dak. 58102.

Life on the Edge of Town



Whitefish, Mont.

I am writing this at a hotel in Whitefish on the morning of the day in which I am to go up to Big Mountain. The Annual Conference of our church begins there tomorrow (June 13).

Actually, I've already been up there. After the train came in last evening, Pastor John Rieth of Kalispell took (Pastor) Herb and Syl Franz and me up the mountain to see the conference site. It truly is a unique setting and for those of us privileged to come, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

There is the scent of the pines in the air and the view to the south, east and west is, as Pastor Stendal wrote, one which "few poets could describe." The air wasn't completely clear at the time and so Flathead Lake was not wholly visible but lay mistily in the distance.

On our way up the mountain, and the ascent is 1500 to 2000 feet from the townsite, we had a spectacular view of Whitefish Lake, the lake which I had remembered from previous trips through here. We stopped at one curve in the road and stood looking down at it hundreds of feet below. It wouldn't

be out of the way to describe its beauty as "fjord-like." I know that everyone at the conference will enjoy seeing it.

We weren't in any of the Big Mountain buildings last evening, but from all appearances they will take care of us very well.

The city of Whitefish lies in the northern part of the Flathead Valley. At a distance, mountains ring the city to the north and east, high hills to the west. After breakfast this morning in the hotel restaurant which has the interesting name of Hanging Tree, I walked down the main street. There are many fine-looking stores and shops.

My hotel is the Cadillac Hotel, a block from the railroad station. It isn't a "cadillac of a hotel," but adequate. I had a good night's rest, tired enough to sleep amid the sounds of traffic from a busy street right outside my window. When I retired, it had been over 24 hours since leaving Newfolden.

The Journey Here

I left Newfolden Sunday evening and stopped at Bob and Helen Hjelle's in

East Grand Forks, Minn., for coffee and visiting. Bob took my car back to his place for safe-keeping.

Scheduled to leave after 3 a.m., we didn't get going until after 5 o'clock. We were behind almost that much when we got to Whitefish yesterday evening. Judith Wold also entrained at Grand Forks. We were about 14 persons heading for the conference.

Some sleep was had during the day, but it was fitful. The air conditioning wasn't working much of the day in my coach and it was quite uncomfortable. I don't want to knock Amtrak. I enjoy a train ride and did so this time, too, but there are problems to be ironed out. The visits to the dining car were enjoyable, the food good and prices reasonable. I saw my first lady waitress ever in a railroad diner.

My table mates were people like these: a boy from Rochester, N.Y., travelling to Seattle with his parents; a young black man from the Queens, New York, going to his sister's wedding in Wolf Point, Mont.; a young man from Whitefish who had attended a high school graduation in White Bear Lake, Minn.; and a couple from Pauline, Ia., en route to visit a son or daughter in Portland.

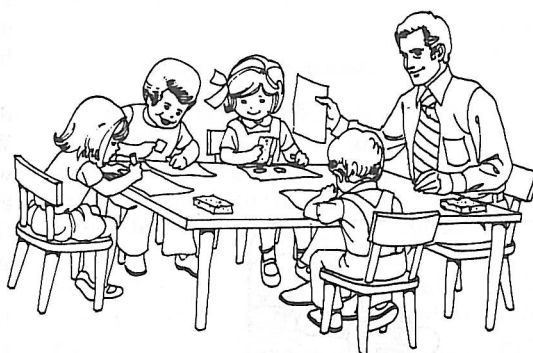
Herb Franz said that being at the depot in the Twin Cities reminded him of World War II days because there was so much business and activity. At every stop there were passengers getting on and getting off. Surely this increased interest in train travel will continue, in the face of the energy crunch. All effort should be made to strengthen and improve rail passenger service. If a person has time, enjoys visiting with other passengers in a way which other modes of land and air travel do not afford, wants the opportunity to do some reading and likes to sit and look out over the countryside, then train travel has much to offer.

Next Time

The next time *Life on the Edge of Town* appears, I'd like to tell about visits with friends at Hot Springs and St. Ignatius, Mont., after the conference and the return trip by bus. And about other things.

—Raynard Huglen

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In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

WISCONSIN

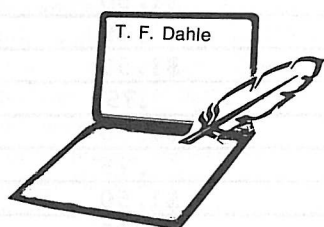
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Thoughts from Tryg

CONFESSED SINS

I. They are removed.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12).

"David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah." And Nathan said unto David, 'Jehovah also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die' " (II Sam. 12:13).

2. They are cast behind God's back.

"Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption; for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back" (Is. 38:17).

3. They are cast into the depths of the sea.

"Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19).

4. They are pardoned.

"Seek ye Jehovah while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteousness man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Is. 55:6-7).

5. They shall be white as snow.

"Come now, and let us reason together," saith Jehovah: 'though your

sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow' " (Is. 1:18).

6. They are remitted.

"To Him bear all the prophets witness, that through His name every one that believeth on Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

"Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

7. They are blotted out.

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins" (Is. 44:22).

"I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake; and I will not remember thy sins" (Is. 43:25).

Why should we worry about them?

Trygve F. Dahle

(Continued from page 6)

also an election of officers. Vice-President will be Mrs. Michael Brandt of Amery, Wis. Mrs. Clifford Nelson was re-elected to a second term as secretary. Mrs. Wallace Raleigh of New Hope, Minn., became the Cradle Roll secretary. Mrs. Harlen Hjermstad, Kenyon, is the new My Missionary-for-a-Day secretary. The new nominating committee will have Mrs. Edna

Sivlva, Minneapolis, Minn., Mrs. Russell Bergstrom of St. Paul, and Mrs. Lorraine Nyhus, Cumberland, Wis., as members.

Local authors had their books on display during the noon hour. The book, *His Mysterious Ways*, was sold and autographed by author Harriett Erickson. Pastor John DeBoer's *Five Life Changing Sermons* was also on sale.

The afternoon session included a devotional (II Timothy 2:11-15) by Mrs. Doris Kylo of Emmanuel Lutheran. The theme song was again sung, now as an introduction to our afternoon speaker, Miss Priscilla Wold. We welcomed her home on furlough from her mission work at our mission in Brazil. Miss Wold brought greetings from the mission and thanks for all the many prayers given on her behalf. She described her life on the mission field and the problems of learning a new language. She challenged us all to consider mission work for ourselves. She felt we are all called to go... stay home only if you feel the Lord wants you to.

Our closing hymn was "Jesus Saves." Pastor Karl Berg, interim pastor at Emmanuel, spoke briefly in closing and then gave the benediction.

The Hauge Lutheran WMF of Kenyon provided coffee and cupcakes following the afternoon session.

Over 135 WMF members, pastors, and other guests were in attendance and 15 churches were represented. An offering of \$401.40 was collected and designated for the General Fund of our WMF.

In His Service,
Mrs. Clifford Nelson, Sec.