

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

March 17, 1981



MEXICO Photo by Rev. R. Snipstead

*"World evangelism
demands haste
because the
destiny of immortal
human beings is at stake."*



Special World Missions issue

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Kenneth Pentti



Falsehood

"Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another" (Lev. 19:11).

The word falsehood means to speak falsely, to make an untrue statement, to utter something contrary to the truth. A falsehood is a lie, something fabricated with the intent to deceive. The person who utters falsehoods speaks falsely, practices lying and gives out counterfeit truth.

The Bible points out that a life lived under false pretenses, a hypocritical life, is a lie, a falsehood (Jer. 23:14). A vain thing may be a falsehood (Is. 59:4); a false system may be a falsehood, a lie (Rom. 3:7). Error as opposed to truth is a lie (I Jn. 2:21). Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar and practices falsehood (I Jn. 2:22).

The Bible has a great deal to say about falsehood, about lying. Let us consider three things:

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The Parent of Falsehood. Jesus said: "If God were your Father, ye would love Me: for I proceed forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me. Why do ye not understand My speech? even because ye cannot hear My word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn. 8:42-44).

Every lie, spoken or implied, was designed by the devil. Any person who is given to falsehood is the son of the devil and is a tool of the devil.

The Participation in Falsehood. Falsehood is one of the more common, vicious sins of society, in the long and ugly catalog of social evils. David the psalmist said: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Ps. 58:3). The truth of this statement can be verified by each parent. From early childhood parents must teach their children to tell the truth, but they do not have to teach them to lie, to practice falsehood. Men are by nature false, deceptive, liars; it is one of the sure marks of the depravity of man.

A. What is the sinner's attitude toward lying?

1. He loves lying (Ps. 52:3).
2. He delights in lying (Ps. 62:4).
3. He seeks after lying (Ps. 4:2).
4. He gives heed to lying (Prov. 17:4).

B. What should be the Christian's attitude toward lying?

1. He hates lying (Prov. 13:5).
2. He seeks to avoid lying (Zeph. 3:13).
3. He is not to respect those who lie and is to utterly reject their company (Ps. 40:4; 101:7).

4. He is to pray to be delivered from lying (Ps. 119:29).

What is your attitude toward falsehood? Let Proverbs 17:4 help you: "A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue."

If you listen to falsehood, it is because you are wicked, and if you listen to a worthless tongue, it is because you are false and given to lying, says the writer of the Book of Proverbs. According to the above standard of measures, you know if you are evil in mind and a professional liar.

The Punishment for Falsehood. In the New Testament we find a story about Ananias and his wife, an outstanding example of a lying churchman and what happened to him and his wife because they lied. Under the stress of persecution, the Christians converted their holdings into cash and put the money into a pool, out of which all were to be cared for. Ananias and his wife sold a farm and brought part of the proceeds to the apostles. The whole scheme was designed to give the impression that they had contributed the whole price. The Holy Spirit revealed to Peter the deception and Peter exposed them to their face and said that Satan was back of it all and they had lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11). Both Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and died as a consequence of their lying.

If you deal in falsehood there are two who know about it, you and God. If for any excuse or reason you have been guilty of spoken or implied falsehood, ask Jesus Christ to pardon you, by coming to Him in true repentance. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour; for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25).

"The couriers, riding the royal horses, raced out, spurred on by the king's command. . . ." (Esther 8:14 NIV).

The Jews were living as captives in the land of Persia at the time this book of Esther was written. It was roughly 465 years before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to this earth. King Ahasuerus ruled the land, and we know him better as Xerxes.

A wicked man named Haman hated the Jewish people and plotted to deceive the king into making a law calling for the death of all the Jews on a certain date. His deceitful trickery worked and all the Jews were under the sentence of death. It was a horrible time and all the Jewish people faced their doom.

But the King had taken a beautiful young maiden as his wife. This lovely young girl known as Esther was a Jewess, trained in all the traditions of God's Word by her faithful cousin Mordecai.

Esther prayed earnestly to the Lord and surrendered herself into God's hand to be used by Him at this tragic time for her people. God gave her courage to risk her own life and to go to the

URGENCY IN MISSION

to the farthest corner of every province in the land before the specified date of the killing of the Jews.

Just as the Jews were sentenced to death, all of us, yes, everyone of us who make up the family of man, is under the condemnation of eternal death.

We have a deceitful enemy who hates us and has tricked all of us to be under his sentence of death. He plotted our destruction and managed to trick our first father and mother, Adam and Eve, into disobeying God and choosing Satan's way. As the representatives of the human race, they voted for sin. . . and we inherited the results. All of us enter this world with a bent toward sinning, a strong desire to do things *our own way*, not God's. . . and with the big "I" at the center of our lives.

Oh, what a fiendish enemy he is. The sentence of eternal death is upon us.

Romans 3:9 tells us all are under sin and v. 19, all the world is "guilty before God."

This principle of sin is explained

versed Satan's wicked decree. He "turned back" the sentence of death over mankind. This great truth is spelled out for us in Hebrews 2:14, 15: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Then our victorious Lord issued a commandment to His own servants that the Good News of deliverance is to be published throughout all the lands of the earth. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

As we consider King Ahasuerus' decree providing deliverance for the Jews, what prompted the haste in proclaiming the decree of the king? Why were the messengers "Pressed"? Why the urgency? Why such unrestrained consecration?

The simple answer is, it was *the King's commandment*. This was not an insignificant errand. They were not merely carrying a message about a suggestion or request of their king, but rather the king's personal *command*. It was signed with the king's name and it was sealed with the seal of his kingdom!

We who are followers and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ are under a similar, and a far more important, *commission*. "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47, 48).

After His resurrection, and before His ascension, Jesus gave His commandment, signed with His own blood! The disciples saw the nail-pierced hands when He gave them His command. This command was then sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Why the urgency?

" . . . they must hasten to get the news to the farthest corner of every province in the land. . . . "

king to plead for her people, the Jews.

God blessed her efforts and a second decree was signed by the king, authorizing all the Jews to defend themselves. They did not have to die! A way of escape was provided for them.

But the new decree of deliverance must quickly be made known to every Jew in the entire kingdom, stretching all the way from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces.

What an urgent hour had come for the Jews! The way of deliverance was available for them, but most of them did not know about it. The decree was written in the king's hand and sealed with the king's ring and sent by couriers on horseback. . . *quickly, quickly*. . . they must hasten to get the news

more clearly in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. . . ." Then in v. 18, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

We are thrilled when we read about brave Queen Esther risking her life to plead for her people. But oh, how *much greater* should be our awe, our wonder, our deep thankfulness to hear about our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessed Son of God and Prince of Peace, who himself bore the sentence of death for us. By giving His own precious life He re-

URGENCY . . .

World evangelism demands haste because the destiny of immortal human beings is at stake.

In the days of Queen Esther and King Ahasuerus, the destiny of all the people of Israel was at stake.

Regarding the believer's commission from Christ, the eternal destiny of all human souls is at stake.

All unbelievers around us and to the far corners of the world are under the decree of eternal death: "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

However, we human beings are God's own special creation, made in His image, the crown of His creation, and the objects of His love: "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3).

Jesus Christ, the King of Heaven, has provided deliverance for all mankind by His *own* intervention and sacrifice! Peter tells us, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

People need not die eternally! *They can live!* Our King Jesus has provided eternal life, available to all! Our Lord Jesus declared in John's Gospel, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

But the challenge lies before you and me! The *Word* must be circulated throughout the earth or people will die.

This message of deliverance must be published and made known to all. We must hasten on with the task, pressed by the King's command.

An account from ancient English history illustrates our urgent task: A man in England was condemned to die on the gallows. His mother, who was a servant in the king's house, made her way into the presence of the king and pleaded for her son's life.

The king was moved and immediately called for his scribe and had a pardon written. He then summoned one of his pages and commanded him to hurry to the distant town where the prisoner was held and where he was to die the next day at sundown.

The page started on his errand, and feeling that he had plenty of time, stopped in a certain village to watch a clown entertain a crowd. The time slipped away until at last he realized that he had very little time left. As rapidly as he could, he made his way to the next town and raced to the warden of the prison. But, he arrived only minutes after the prisoner had been hanged.

Later, when called into account by the king, his only answer was, "I laughed with the crowd at the entertainment of the clown, and the time slipped away. . . ."

We would groan, "Oh, what a tragic incident." Yet, are you and I wasting our time while others perish needlessly?

erance in time! The good news must reach them before the deadline, or they would perish!

The messengers knew they could not ride lazily. They didn't have forever to get the message out. They couldn't travel at vacation speed or go to places of their convenience. Their message must be delivered before the designated time or it would be *forever too late*.

So it is with you and me. There is a deadline for proclaiming the Gospel. First, there is a deadline for each human being, the day of physical death, when he is cut off from this earthly life.

Secondly, there are deadlines in the nations. You and I have seen nations *close* to the Gospel. This isn't foreign to us. We have heard about wonderful missionary endeavors in the lands of Viet Nam and Cambodia. We have read stories of national, witnessing Christians. then we saw the horrible headlines day after day, and even now you occasionally see a small article tucked away in the back pages of our

*"People need not
die eternally!
They can live!"*



When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves in the United States, many continued in their servitude, not knowing about the President's proclamation. In their ignorance they remained slaves and some never tasted freedom.

This is what our world is like today. Multitudes are still slaves of sin and of Satan, not even knowing of the precious deliverance which our blessed Lord Jesus has provided.

You and I need to be more urgent! We are too slow in getting the message to the world. Think of the multitudes who are still in darkness, even though Jesus has paid for their sins.

Why else did the servants in Persia hurry? Because *time* was important! The decree of King Ahasuerus had a deadline (Esther 3:13). On that date, death and destruction would fall on the Jews. Oh, they must hear about deliv-

newspapers.

First, missionaries were sent home, or captured and killed.

Then we read of the massacre of thousands of Christian believers.

Then we saw these nations, close to the Gospel, as tyrannical governments took over, and Christianity was no longer permitted to be proclaimed.

Today we know of boundaries where the Bible may not cross. . . nations where Christian witnessing is punishable by death. . . lands where belief in idols and cults and the occult ride rampant. . . *the time is urgent!* We must plant the seed of the Gospel of Christ in every place possible and pray for its growth in national Christians, so that God's invisible, true church will *live on* and *grow*, even if that nation should officially close its doors to Christian foreigners.

Lastly, there is the deadline in the

plan of God: *Christ is coming again.* Our day of opportunity for world evangelism will then end. John 9:4 warns us, "The night cometh, when no man can work." The night of judgment will fall on this earth and then it will be too late for us to bear the witness. And it will be too late for the multitudes of the earth to trust the Savior.

Now is the time to proclaim Christ.

Now is the time for you to speak to your neighbor, your friend, your co-worker about trusting the Lord.

Now is the time for you to obey God's call to serve Him full-time.

Now is the time for you to get serious about Bible study so that you are an able sharer of His truth.

Now is the time for you to be urgent in your burden for souls!

Now is the time for you to sacrificially support our missionaries.

Now is the time for you to pray your own children . . . your roommate . . . yourself onto the mission field.

The Task is Urgent!

Now is the time for you to act. †

Update: AFLC Ministries in Mexico

Adapted from a report by Pastor Samuel Flores

The center of our AFLC mission endeavor in Mexico is the city of Leon, in the beautiful "breadbasket" state of Guanajuato, Mexico. The spacious apartment home of Pastor Samuel Flores and family has served as the meeting place for regular worship services, classes for Sunday School and vacation Bible schools, and for all youth training meetings, with our fervent hope of soon having enough funds to purchase land for the construction of a church building to be the home of this congregation.

In February, 1979, Sunday preaching services were begun in the closest large city, Celaya. This active mission outreach has continued with bi-monthly Bible studies, covering the Epistles to the Ephesians and, currently, to the Romans. Special worship services have been held during Holy Week, Christmastime and at the New Years of both

1980 and 81. Many, many house visits are being made to reach those who have not heard the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, reports Pastor Samuel Flores. Pastor Flores also related to us that the entire congregation of Prince of Peace has visited the Celaya congregation, known as Gethsemane Lutheran Congregation, on three special occasions, for times of rich fellowship and encouragement. Other towns are being explored as possible mission endeavors in the future: they are Salaamca, Cortazar and Villagran. Soon a mission will be established in Irapuato.

Pastor Flores reports that approximately 14 different families have been attending both Sunday and Wednesday services, and some of these have never before heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Approximately ten of these have accepted Lutheran doctrine, but none are yet confirmed members of the church.

What are the problems that challenge the preaching of the Gospel in Mexico? Pastor Flores sums these up, so that we may pray specifically:

- (1) Approximately 98% of Mexicans are Roman Catholic.
- (2) The Roman Catholicism of Mexico is very fanatical and strictly teaches that all those who are not Roman Catholics are heretics.
- (3) Other evangelical churches frequently display a prejudice toward the Lutheran church. They erroneously believe that Lutherans are much like Roman Catholics in both doctrine and customs.
- (4) The laws of the country do not permit Christian evangelizing outside of the churches.

Pastor Flores firmly believes that God is blessing the work in Mexico, and entreates the prayers of Christian brethren throughout our AFLC in the USA. He sends us loving Christian greetings and claims God's promise in Matthew 24:14,

"And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. . ."

E.E.

Being a Missionary

**Out where the loneliness presses around me,
Looking on sights that are sordid and drear,
Strangely abiding—yet surely God called me,
Why do I wonder if Jesus is here?**

**Strangeness of living and strangeness of people,
Have I not come with the Gospel of cheer?
Why is my heart then depressed with its burden?
Isn't my Comrade—my Jesus, out here?**

**God! Teach me quickly to do without friendships,
How to let go of the things that were dear,
How to be rid of this self that is binding me,
Surely my Master, My Jesus, is here.**

**He, who is God, took the form of a servant,
Humbled Himself unto death without fear;
Lonely, forsaken, despised, and rejected,
My blessed Saviour, My Jesus, came here!**

**Wilt Thou forgive me for failure in serving;
Heartache, depression, regrets, disappear.
Born of the Cross, a new courage infills me;
Jesus, my victory, my life, is now here!**

Author unknown

AFLC Mission Week at the Schools

by Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, Dean,
Association Free Lutheran Seminary

"Look on the fields white unto harvest." That was the theme of our Missions Week, February 4-8, sponsored by our AFLC schools at Medicine Lake.

Wednesday, Feb. 4, was Home Missions Day with two Home Mission pastors speaking. Pastor James Gerdeen, St. Paul, Minn., spoke on the topic, "Witness in Jerusalem," and Pastor Ralph Tjelta, Burnsville, Minn., spoke on the topic, "Opportunities for Service." Just one thought from each of these fine challenging messages were: My/our Jerusalem may be a call from the Lord of the church to serve Him faithfully in the midst of opposition and suffering—and—Our hearts, even though we may be Christians, are a mission field; there is much need for sanctification.

Pastor Elden Nelson, Executive Director, gave a slide presentation on our AFLC Home Mission work. At the 7:30 o'clock evening service Dr. H. Daniel Friberg, former missionary to China and Tanzania, East Africa, spoke on the topic, "Lift up your eyes, look upon the fields; in which he gave us a summary view of opportunities and challenges for Gospel proclamation throughout the world.

Thursday was World Missions Day. Pastor and Mrs. Charles Knapp, recently called and commissioned for service in the AFLC's newest field in South America, gave a presentation of challenges and expectations as they prepare for mission work in Paraguay.

Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Executive Director, gave a stimulating, Word-centered message on missions in general during a morning session, as well as a slide presentation on mission work in Mexico and India in the 6:30 p.m. session. At the evening session Missionary Friberg spoke on the topic, "The capital sin of silence." We who have riches of redemption in Christ Jesus grievously sin if we do not share it with our spiritually-starving brothers and sisters all over the world. He based his message on II Kings 6:24-7:20, a picture of the

Gospel in the Old Testament.

We continued with the emphasis on World Missions on Friday, during which Pastor George Knapp, home on furlough from our field in Brazil, challenged all of us to make use of the time God is giving us now to be witnesses of Christ before time is no more and it is too late to proclaim the Gospel. He also shared concerning their pioneer mission work in church planting on the frontiers in Rondonia, Brazil.

Pastor Yeddo Gottel from Brazil, who is presently here in U.S.A. serving as a chaplain at the International Student Fellowship Center and also teaching English as a second language, gave us a mission challenge, basing his message in the Book of Joshua. At the 6:30 p.m. session, a slide presentation was given by three Bible School students, Karen Ellertson, Holly Thompson and Kay Toivonen, who had spent some time in Brazil last year.

During the evening service, God's Spirit, through Missionary Friberg, convicted and inspired us with a message on "A commission from the Omnipotent." When the Lord calls to service He provides for the needs and gives the grace to those who answer the call and obediently follow Him.

Saturday was Bible School Parents' Day. A goodly number of parents visited on campus, attended classes, enjoyed fellowship with the school family and attended sessions on missions. A banquet honoring students' parents was enjoyed by all. A delicious Indian meal was prepared and served by Mrs. B. Rao Dasari and her helpers. A short program given by the students, including a campus life slide presentation, was enjoyed by all. The Choir and Choral Club and several Gospel singing teams, led by our music director, Mr. Don Rodvold, gave an inspiring musical service in the evening.

On Sunday, the last day of the special Missions Week, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Santos from Brazil (Mrs. Santos, Karen, is a daughter of Pastor and Mrs. George Knapp) spoke and gave a slide presentation to the Medicine Lake Lutheran Sunday School on the work in Brazil. Missionary Friberg

preached at the worship service on the topic, "Arise, Shine; for Thy Light Has Come" (Isaiah 60). Pastor Jay Erickson of Medicine Lake led the altar service. At the concluding service we were convicted and challenged by a mission film called "Survivor Number Three," depicting struggles, testings and victories in the carrying out of The Great Commission.

It was a good week, a convicting and inspiring week. The Spirit of God was very evident in every session. There were and are evidences of willingness to obey God's call to us to be His witnesses. We wish that more people could have attended these sessions.

The annual Missions Week on our campus is meant to be a special occasion for the whole AFLC. Next year and the years that follow, if Christ our Lord tarries, we would encourage more of our AFLC congregations to attend and participate in AFLC Missions Week.

"Say not ye, there are four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

"And He (Jesus) said unto them, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned'" (Mark 16:15-16).

With so many open doors and opportunities for Gospel proclamation both at home and abroad for the AFLC, we are so thankful for the full time Home Mission Director we have in the person of Pastor Elden Nelson who faithfully serves in that capacity. It is so important that in order to take care of the opportunities and responsibilities the Lord of the Church is giving us in World Missions, the sending church must broaden its base here at home.

Beginning as of July 1, 1981, God is so graciously providing a half-time director for World Missions in the person of Pastor Eugene Enderlein, who is currently serving the AFLC parish in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, besides being part-time director of World Missions. He has accepted a call from the

HARVEST FIELDS

a page for CHILDREN

Dr. Cornelius Van Alan Van Dyck

*First translator of the Bible into Arabic
and Missionary in Syria for 55 years*

Board of World Missions for that half-time position and will have his office at the AFLC Headquarters in Minneapolis. Pastor Enderlein has also accepted a call from the Board of Trustees of the AFLC Schools to teach half-time in the Bible School, beginning his duties there as of August 1, 1981. Let us all remember Pastor and Mrs. Enderlein and their family in prayer as they search for a place to live in the Minneapolis area and as they enter upon this new phase of work in God's Kingdom. May the good Lord who calls also provide for all the needs physically, mentally and spiritually. Surely God will. The Kingdom is His. The glory is His.

GOD'S PLAN

How else could God's moral economy have been upheld? It is profoundly ethical, this marvelous plan of redemption. At the same time it reveals the infinite love of the Triune God. Why should we not accept our gracious Redeemer who thus suffered and died for us? Why find fault with His plan? Are we not the beneficiaries of it? If Christ paid our debt, let us accept the payment with grateful hearts; and, because we are saved solely by His free and fraternal grace, let us devote to Him the service of our lives.

L. S. Keyser

The native doctors, or medicine men, in heathen lands, give the most horrible doses, and practice the most dreadful cruelties imaginable, in their efforts to drive away disease. A missionary doctor is a great blessing in any mission field. Dr. Van Dyck was the second one ever sent to Syria by the American Board. The first one was Dr. Asa Dodge, but he died in less than two years, and for five years there was not a single American physician in the land of Syria, where once the Great Physician healed the sick and saved the sinful.

You know that the Scriptures have been called "Leaves of Healing." They are meant for all the sin-sick, but have to be given to those in heathen countries in a way that they can understand. Dr. Van Dyck was a great translator of God's Word. His name is always associated with Syria, and with the giving of the Arabic Scriptures to the world. Do you know that a large proportion of the heathen world can be reached by the Arabic tongue? Missionaries tell us that this is true.

Cornelius Van Alan Van Dyck was born in the year 1818, in Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York. After receiving his medical education at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, he was appointed medical missionary to Syria when 21 years of age. The first eight or ten years were spent in teaching, visiting, preparing textbooks, and attending to the sick in all parts of the large field. There were wars in the years 1840-1845, and the

good doctor was very busy, ministering to the wounded and suffering, heroically forgetful of himself.

When he was 28 he was ordained a minister of the Gospel, and was thus prepared to preach as well as to do medical work. Later, he was so busy going about the country, riding immense distances, that it was said that "the station was on horseback."

The translation of the Bible into Arabic was begun by Dr. Eli Smith about 1849, and he worked diligently for eight years until his death, but was only willing then, to be responsible for the first ten chapters of Genesis, printed under his own eye. It was then that Dr. Van Dyck took up the work for which God had been making him ready in various ways for 17 years. He had read and mastered a whole library of Arabic books—poetry, history, grammar and the rest, and was without an equal in command of the language. When printed the press could not work fast enough to supply the demand for Bibles.

After 55 busy and fruitful years in Syria, death came in 1895.

The bodies that he healed in that old Bible land have long since passed away, but the living message of the Word of God given to the people through his splendid service, still continues.

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

Our Memory Verse

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

Update: AFLC Ministries in India

by Pastor B. Rao Dasari
Faculty, AFLC Schools

With thanksgiving to the Lord for all His mercies in the past, I would like to bring before the AFLC the mission work in India during this past year.

The Lord is giving great opportunities to our church in India to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to open and willing souls. The survey team of Pastors Snipstead, Enderlein and Dasari has given detailed reports of this during recent months.

The trip of our pastors to India was very tiring and definitely not a "pleasure trip", with the working day lasting at least from 8 a.m. until 11:30 nightly. The situation was more hard pressed because they had not had any time to adjust to the "slave driving" of Pastor Dasari. But this trip was a great blessing to the pastors and especially to the believers in India. The Christians in India expressed great joy at these visits, and also expressed sincere sorrow at their parting. The missionaries were bidden farewell with the plea, "Come and visit us again!" Even spending one day at one place made us feel the eternal bond of oneness in spirit with the believers in India.

After we returned to the U.S.A., the workers and the believers began their work with renewed spirit. There is always a revival meeting once a month in one of the village churches with a few evangelists and President Benerji Raju, along with D. Satyanandam, secretary-treasurer of our mission work, using the P.A. system. Many of our congregations will have Saturday as the day of fasting and prayer along with other days on which they join together for prayer. The Lord has given us believers who have the assurance of salvation by God's grace through His Word. Our workers always make house visits without fail.

The church is growing very well. Many workers are pleading with us to accept them into our fellowship. In addition to the 15 workers whom we have set apart, more than 10 other workers are now associating with us, expecting our approval and acceptance. Among

the newcomers we also have a pastor who has his regular theological seminary training, along with many other precious believers and workers who are associating with us.

I need not stress the importance of our help both in prayer and finances. This is the time when the Indian mission needs more help than any other time. They need churches, workers' houses, bicycles, lanterns, P.A. system. I do not hesitate to ask the members in our Association to take these projects on an individual basis and contact the Mission Board or Pastor Enderlein to support the work in a special way along with the help of the Mission Board in India. I can assure the members that their support will be best used in India at this present time, more than at any other time.

If the Lord wills, I, Pastor Dasari, will be going to India during the months of June and July, 1981, to conduct summer school for about 25 workers. I will be teaching for the five week days and visiting a congregation each weekend, spending time with the believers. Other matters need attending to, such as purchasing of sites and caring for other official matters of the Church and government.

The work is growing in such an encouraging way. We do not have a headquarters place where our visitors from this country could stay as they minister. I had to move the pastors around as a cat moves her kittens on our last visit! I pray that the Lord would speak to some peoples' hearts to have a place for a headquarters which can be used for our missionaries to stay when the Lord sends many short-term visiting preachers in the days to come. I need not impress upon you all how much prayers we need from all of you as we all minister as an AFLC body in India.

Missionary Connelly J. Dyrud, who will return with his family from Brazil in July for a year's furlough, will be available for deputation work in the congregations beginning in August. Please contact Pastor Eugene Ender-

Special Need

The World Mission Board urges members and friends of the AFLC World Mission program to respond prayerfully and financially to a new situation in Mexico. All worship services and classes of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Congregation of Leon, Mexico, have been held in the apartment of Pastor Samuel Flores to date. But a new owner has given notice to Pastor Flores to leave because he will not allow worship services to be held there. Will you take this need to your heart and respond, so that a church home will soon be a reality for our sister congregation in Leon, Mexico? A matching fund program for both purchase of land and construction of a church building has been established by the World Mission Board.

—Pastor Eugene Enderlein

Give me the lessons

Give me the lessons you want me to teach;
Give me the hearts you want me to reach;
Give me the words you want me to pray;
Give me the lost souls who don't know the way;
Give me Thy Spirit to do what is right;
Keep my will as Thy will ever in sight.

Marjorie Berge
Wayzata, Minn.

Available for deputation

lein, 404 Kendall Avenue So., Thief River Falls, Minn., 56701, now to arrange for a visit from Pastor Dyrud. Early response by our congregations now will make it possible to use Pastor Dyrud's time most efficiently.

editorials

MISSIONS AND LENT

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* has a special emphasis on World Missions. Our readers will find several articles dealing with our evangelization responsibilities in the world. Through these and others which will follow throughout the year the story will be told about the work which the Lord has given us as a fellowship.

Then we are also in the season of Lent and this issue was to have contained a feature article on that subject, on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, just at the time when that article was due on our desk we received word that the intended writer, Pastor G. H. Spletstoesser, Pine River, Minn., had died. The question comes—had he received our request? Had he begun work on it? Perhaps we shall never know. At any rate, there will be no feature article on the Calvary experience of our Lord this time, after all. (We shall pay tribute to our co-worker, Pastor Spletstoesser, next time.)

But there is a very close relationship between Missions and Lent. Missions means the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ and the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Gospel. This is at it was stated by that

greatest of all missionaries, the Apostle Paul, when he wrote to the church at Corinth: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." The Lord was the content of his preaching and that is exactly what we are to proclaim in our time. If we deviate from that subject we are not faithful to the commission.

One's thoughts go so easily, too, to the message voiced by the Apostles in the Book of Acts, in those early years of world evangelization. What did they preach? "This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised Him up. . . ." (Acts 2:23, 24a). Yes, they proclaimed the crucified and resurrected Jesus.

So as we are preaching and hearing sermons about the suffering and death of Jesus these days of Lent, and shortly will tell and hear the story of the resurrection again, we are occupied with the very same message the missionaries tell. The only difference is that we are here at home and they are in other countries. And this, too; we must help make it possible for our missionaries to go to and to be in those other lands where there haven't been as many opportunities to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we have had.

The World Missions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations have literally exploded in the past few years. From our tightly concentrated work in and around Campo Mourao, Parana, Brazil, we now think in terms also of Curitiba, Rondonia and Paraguay in South America, and of Guanajuato, Mexico, and eastern India. All of this expansion means greater diversity, not only of interest but of responsibility. May the Lord enable us to be equal to the task. This is our day and this is our mission task.

The cross was His own

They borrowed a bed to lay His head

When Christ the Lord came down;

They borrowed the ass

In the mountain pass

For Him to ride to town;

But the crown that He wore

And the Cross that He bore

Were His own—

The Cross was His own.

He borrowed the bread

When the crowd He fed

On the grassy mountain side,

He borrowed the dish of broken fish

With which He satisfied.

But the crown that He wore

And the Cross that He bore

Were His own—

The Cross was His own.

He borrowed the ship in which to sit

To teach the multitude;

He borrowed a nest

In which to rest—

He had never a certitude;

But the crown that He wore

And the Cross that He bore

Were His own—

The Cross was His own.

He borrowed a room

On His way to the tomb

The Passover lamb to eat;

They borrowed a cave for Him a grave,

They borrowed a winding sheet.

But the crown that He wore

And the Cross that He bore

Were His own—

The Cross was His own.

—Author Unknown

Rightly Understanding the Means of Grace

by Pastor Laurel M. Udden,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The Word of God and the Sacraments are the means or ways by which God works to call people into His kingdom and to continue to provide what is needed to sustain the spiritual life given by God to the believer. Article V: Of the Ministry (*Augsburg Confession*) "That we may obtain this faith, the Office of Teaching for the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who worketh faith where and when it pleaseth God in them that hear the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justified those who believe that they are received into favor for Christ's sake."

Martin Luther, in the Catechism, explaining the Third Article of the Creed, says very clearly how the Word of God is central in this ministry. "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or

strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith." He then continues to show how the Christian Church came into being and how the Christian Church is the fellowship in which the believer is nourished and strengthened in his daily Christian walk. So, first of all, the Word of God is the means by which God calls us throughout the ministry of the Holy Spirit, gathers us into the Holy Christian Church, and continues to enlighten us with various gifts as He preserves us in the true faith.

The Word of God is the primary means through which the Holy Spirit works to bring faith to the believer. The very foundation of the Reformation was the two basic statements: the Word Alone - Faith Alone. The introduction of the *Formula of Concord* says: "1) We believe, teach, and confess that the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with (all) teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments alone, as it is written, Ps 119:105: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. And St. Paul: Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you let him be accursed, Gal. 1:8." Thus we have set before us the very clear and true place of the Word of God in bringing faith to the believer. It is the Holy Spirit working through the Word who shows men their sin, leads them to repentance and works the miracle of faith in the believer's heart. "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

We believe that a person is justified before God only by faith and not by works. We have the righteousness of Christ, which we must have to stand before a Holy God, imputed to us by faith. "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as right-

eousness" (Rom. 4:3-5). How is this faith brought into a believer's life? It is the work of the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, our only rule of faith and practice. Thus the first means of grace, the means by which God brings His grace to us, is the Word of God.

The Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are also means through which God works His grace in the heart of a believer according to the Word of God. Here we see a close connection between the Word of God and the Sacraments. In explaining Baptism, the Catechism says, "Baptism is not simply water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word." God's command in Matt. 28:19, 20, is very clear: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Through the years the Church has

"The sacraments . . .
are also means
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of God."

found that in heathen countries and for unbaptized adults instruction as to what Baptism is and what it means is necessary before the adult is baptized, if he then desires to become a believer. We have always, on the other hand, taught and practiced that infants should be baptized and believe they do receive the Holy Spirit. It is, of course, necessary for the parents and/or sponsors to teach the child how to pray if the spiritual life received in Baptism is to grow and mature. It is then the continuing work of the Holy Spirit through

“Far from an ‘eternal security’ in itself, it is, like birth, only the beginning of a whole lifetime of growth and maturing in one’s relationship to Christ.”

the Word of God, as that child is taught and nurtured in this Word of God, that this child can consciously understand and receive all that God desires to give to him.

The daily and continuing work of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life is well described in the answer to the question: “What does the baptizing with water signify?” “It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and be put to death; and that the new man should daily come forth and rise, to live before God in righteousness and holiness for ever.” This clearly shows us that Baptism is not just an isolated act of God but the beginning of a whole lifetime of God’s work in that person’s life, even as a child, provided that and as long as that person allows God to do His Work in him. The Sacrament of Baptism involves the continuing work of the Holy Spirit throughout our whole lifetime. There must be a daily working of repentance in the heart of the believer, a daily drowning of the old Adam in us, a daily renewing of the new man in Christ. Far from an “eternal security” in itself, it is, like birth, only the beginning of a whole lifetime of growth and maturing in one’s relationship to Christ.

Article XII: Of Repentance. “Now repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which born of the Gospel, or of absolution, believes that, for Christ’s sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance.

“They condemn the Anabaptists, who deny that those once justified can lose the Holy Ghost. Also those who

contend that some may attain to such perfection in this life that they cannot sin. The Novatians also are condemned, who would not absolve such as had fallen after Baptism, though they teach that remission of sins cometh through faith, but command us to merit grace through satisfactions of our own.”

Article XIII: Of the Use of the Sacraments. “Of the use of the Sacraments they teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but rather to be signs and testimonies of the will of God toward us, instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Wherefore we must so use the Sacraments that faith be added to believe the promises which are offered and set forth through the Sacraments.

“They therefore condemn those who teach that the Sacraments justify by the outward act, and do not teach that, in the use of the Sacraments, faith which believes that sins are forgiven, is required.”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is given for our continued growth and strengthening in faith. Article X: Of the Lord’s Supper. “Of the Supper of the Lord, they teach, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present, and are distributed to those who eat in the Supper of the Lord; and they disapprove of those that teach otherwise.” I have often thought of the Lord’s Supper as a way the invisible God comes to us in a visible way. The explanation of the Catechism asks the question: “How can the bodily eating and drinking produce such great benefits?” “The eating and drinking, indeed, do not produce them, but the words: ‘Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.’ For besides the bodily eating and drinking, these words are the chief thing in the Sacrament; and he who believes them has what they say and

declare, namely, the remission of sins.”

If we preach, teach and practice according to the Sacraments through the Word of God, the Lord can bring real spiritual blessing. The Means of Grace, Word and Sacraments, are the very foundation of the Holy Christian Church. Article VII: Of the Church (*Augsburg Confession*) “Also they teach that one holy Church is to continue forever. The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments rightly administered. . . ”

If rightly understood and correctly used the Means of Grace will not only be the means by which an individual is brought to faith in Christ and nurtured throughout his life, but it is also the means by which the Church, the fellowship of believers, comes into being, grows, is renewed and brings God’s grace and blessing to all who will receive it.

Thus the first three Petitions of the Lord’s Prayer are fulfilled. God’s name is hallowed, His Kingdom comes and His will is done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

THE WOMEN'S PAGE

Honorary Memberships recently given . . .

Pukwana, S. Dak.

Elim WMF recently honored Elta Swanson of Canton, S. Dak. Before moving to Canton, Elta was active as WMF president and Sunday School superintendent.



Cumberland, Wis.

Mrs. Stella Brown was given an honorary membership pin by the Section Ten WMF. Mrs. Zola Brown is pictured presenting the pin.

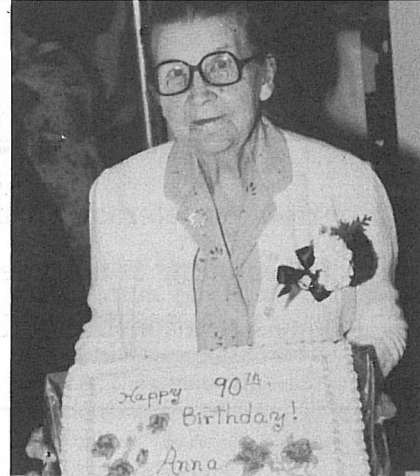


Winger, Minn.

Union Lake WMF honored (front row) Mrs. Florence Nelson, Mrs. Randolph Kolden, (back row) Mrs. Velda Bodahl, Mrs. Conrad Osmondson, and Mrs. Agnes Rost.

Send all WOMEN'S PAGE news to Miss Solveig Larson, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55441.

Hospitality and service characterize Shevlin home



Go to Anna Felt's house, and you will be greeted at the door by a smiling, happy face with a coronet of still-dark braided hair. As you enter, you see knitting, embroidery, and other gift projects, with Christian books and papers on the tables. You catch the aroma of a fresh apple pie still in the oven. Not so unusual, except that she celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house at Sell Lake Church, south of Shevlin, Minn., on December 21. The WMF ladies came to her house on the 22nd, her actual birthday, to honor her. She lives in her own cozy little house behind her son's. He is county sheriff. She also has two daughters.

This remarkable lady grew up in Aangersmansland, Sweden. School there was for six years, with one hour of Bible History and catechism every morning, then classes with the pastor for five or six months for confirmation in the state (Lutheran) church. Her work there included milking cows and goats.

Her father and sister were already in the U.S. when she came with her uncle at the age of 16. She arrived in Bemidji where she worked in a home for \$2 a week. Through friends at church she met Henry Felt. In order for him to visit Anna, the 30-mile undertaking involved a trip with horses to Shevlin and then taking the train to Bemidji. It required an early start, and took many hours each way. Occasionally he took the stage home from Shevlin. Anna and Henry married in 1913 and made their home on the same property where they live now.

Church activities became a vital part of Henry and Anna Felt's life. Services had been held in the local school, but soon a church was built. Pancake and chicken suppers were served in the small back room, where folks helped themselves and then sat in the church to eat. Silver was brought from home, but they did have enamel dishes. In winter, heat came from a stove in a cellar hole, through a slatted floor. Services were in Norwegian. The pastor came from Bagley. If he came for morning services, he had Ladies Aid in the afternoon. If he had services in the afternoon, they had Aid the next day. He served a number of churches. Ladies Aid and Luther League met in the homes once a month. Sometimes they came with horses, but often they walked, anywhere from one to six miles.

It was necessarily a close-knit community, centered in the church. The women had devotions and singing and spent their meetings with needlework and quilts, which were then sold at an annual sale. There were ice-cream socials and suppers.

Hers was and is the gift of hospitality and service. The Felt home was open for visiting pastors, speakers and VBS teachers. She and her husband both sang in the choir, and shared janitorial jobs—she cleaned while he started fires. She taught Sunday School, helped at Bible Camp, held church offices, and every office in the Ladies Aid or WMF at some time. She is still a very active member, taking her turn with Bible study and devotion, and willingly furnishing food for whatever comes up. Sunday finds her one of the first comers to church. It's next to impossible to leave her house without coffee and home-baked goodies.

Truly, Anna's children and neighbors rise up to call her blessed. She never lets an opportunity pass to tell how thankful she is to the Lord for her many years of health and blessing. A favorite verse is Ps. 107:1: "O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever." ✠

—Mrs. Dorothy Katzenmeyer
Lake Itasca, Minn.

Alumni Association has director

The alumni executive committee extended a call to Mrs. John (Cindy) Schlenk to be executive director of the AFLBS Alumni Association.

A '73 graduate of the Bible School, Cindy views this as an opportunity to provide increased contact with alumni, focusing on supporting AFLBS through prayers and projects. On February 10, 1981 she accepted the volunteer position of working four hours a week until a further decision can be made at Homecoming '82.

The concept of an alumni director has been discussed for a long time. At the last business meeting, the way was cleared for action. Mrs. Schlenk excitedly talks of the potential impact of a coordinated alumni association. She desires that every hour spent in the alumni association will benefit AFLBS students, students, who in turn influence local congregations, which will ultimately further God's kingdom.



Attention Alumni

If you are an AFLBS alumnus who has moved, or know of an alumnus who has moved and is not receiving AFLBS alumni mailings, please send the new address to AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55441. Your cooperation is appreciated. We want to keep in touch.

**APPLY NOW
for FALL '81
Join us at AFLBS**

Cradle Roll News McIntosh, Minn.

Trinity Lutheran Church enrolled Bradley R. Nelson, Laura L. Quam, and Amanda A. Langemo in their church cradle roll.

The recent graduates are: Brandon Bugge, Matthew Erholtz, Corey Hanson, Kjersten Langemo, Skara Nelson, Heidi Quam, Marla Quam, Holly Roed and Lynne Tufsted.

Life at AFLBS—a student shares

James 1:17 says, "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow."

Each of us has really come to know the truth of that, as God has been so good to everyone of us here at Bible school. We realize daily as we come before Him what an opportunity each of us has been given—to get into God's Word and to learn His eternal truths

and apply them to our lives. We learn through our trials to fully trust in His promises. We must put Him first and be willing to follow wherever He leads, knowing always that His way is best.

Our daily lives here at Bible school are filled with the excitement of learning more about our God and how great and wonderful He really is. We can say with confidence that greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world!

Jean Swanson
Canton, S. Dak.

Spring Events Calendar

Campus Days	Mar. 27-29	Youth Rally	May 2
Alumni Retreat		Home Concert	May 16
and Tourney	Apr. 3-4	Combined Choirs	7:30 p.m.
Choral Club Tour	Apr. 7-15	Graduation	May 22
Easter Recess	Apr. 16-26	BARNABAS and AMBASSADOR	
Choir Tour	Apr. 17-May 3	Training Week	May 26-30



Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, Pastor Dennis Gray and Leif Fostervold with the results of the "can" campaign.

With our evangelist

Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Mar. 29-Apr. 2

LeRoy Flickinger, interim pastor

Wyoming, Minn.

Hope Lutheran Church

Apr. 4-8

Wendell Johnson, pastor

Kenyon, Minn.

Hauge Lutheran Church

Apr. 12-16

Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor

Minot, N. Dak.

Bethel Lutheran Church

Apr. 26-30

Terry Olson, pastor

Culbertson, Mont.

Bethel Lutheran Church

May 10-14

Edwin Kjos, pastor

Chassell and Pelkie, Mich.

Maranatha and Grace Lutheran Churches

May 17-22

Jay Eberth, pastor

Uphold the ministry of evangelism in our church with prayer. Remember Evangelist Pentti as he visits the congregations and communities listed above. Expect great things from God.

Preaching Missions

Newfalden, Minn.

Westaker Lutheran Church

Pastoral vacancy

Apr. 5-9

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., speaker

How much are you worth?

This is a question that is posed to most people now and especially to young people. Statisticians, educators and businessmen are trying to calculate the value of a person in various professions and on various educational levels.

But that is not what I am speaking of now. I am asking the value of the lowly aluminum can, the pop cans we so glibly throw away. What are they worth—not much, you think!

Perhaps each one alone is not so valuable, but when you put a lot of them together they do count up.

That is what the Zion Sunday School in Willmar, Minn., found out. They began gathering aluminum cans in the spring of 1980. The cans came from along roadsides, in the parks, golf clubs, gas stations and, yes, from the Bible Camps of the AFLC!

The children would bring their grocery sacks or plastic garbage bags full of them to Sunday School. Then Roger Rasmussen took them home, ran over them with his tractor to flatten them, and stored them in his garage. There certainly didn't seem to be many after the tractor went over them!

In November they loaded them in a grain box on a trailer, as you can see in the picture, and brought them to Willmar to sell. How many pounds of cans? 575 lbs., and they received almost \$150 for them.

But they didn't keep the money for themselves. They gave it for missions. How many souls might hear the Gospel because of these aluminum cans? There is no monetary value we can put on the soul of a person. Each penny and dollar helps to present the plan of salvation.

The Sunday School at Bethany Lutheran church near Brodhead, Wis., found this true, too, as they gathered aluminum cans for about two months. They filled the back seat of the missionary's car when he visited there and received about \$12 for their efforts.

Let's not look at the lowly aluminum can and think there is no value there. Let's gather them together for missions! Help keep American clean! Help conserve the things God gave us and help get the message of salvation out to the world. Let's see what your Sunday School or youth group can do for missions this year of 1981.

George Knapp, missionary

Personalities

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, who has served the parish at Thief River Falls, Minn. (Our Saviour's, Reiner and Emmanuel) since 1975, has resigned to accept the call to become Executive Director of AFLC World Missions and to teach in the AFLC Schools. (See also the article by Pastor Amos Dyrud in this issue.) The Enderleins will be moving to the Twin Cities in July.

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Spicer, Minn., is holding special meetings this week, Mar. 29-Apr. 2, in Ny Stavanger Lutheran Church, Buxton, N. Dak.

Rev. John Kjos, Cumberland, Wis., who was seriously injured in a tree-sawing accident in January is experiencing a miraculous recovery. From the early prognosis of little chance of regaining normalcy, Pastor Kjos now expects to return to full-time work in two months. Some vision and speech problems remained at the beginning of the month, but it is anticipated that these will clear up. All thanks goes to God.

Mpls. District youth gather at ARC

On February 6-7 the ARC was alive with the activity of a winter retreat as Minneapolis District Luther Leagues gathered for a weekend of fun and fellowship.

Fellowship began their time together as they viewed the movie, "The Master's Touch," and then sang and shared. Other times of spiritual challenges included a Bible study by Evangelist Ken Pentti and a musical drama presented by a new group in our district, Imago Dei, of Onalaska, Wis. Snow tubing or skiing provided recreation for Saturday afternoon. A meeting was held to elect district officers: Pres.-Don. Eyke, V.-Pres.-Sonya Gerdeen, Sec.-Gwen Snipstead, Treas.-Travis Delzer, Devotional Life Sec.-Tania Delzer, Pastor Advisor-Rev. Ralph Rokke.

Approximately one hundred young people enjoyed the weekend hosted by the Zumbrota leaguers.



Galilee Camp news

The 1980 camp family with the baseball backstop in the background. The framing material for the backstop was donated by Bud Evans of Thief River Falls, Minn.

Improvements continue to be made at Galilee Bible Camp near Lake Bronson, Minn., scene of one of the two AFLC Family Bible Camp weeks in 1981. The west wing of the boys' dorm is being winterized now, using electric heat.

The camp is grateful for an anonymous gift of \$5,000 to be matched by other donations. Funds are coming in to meet this challenge the Lord has placed before us. Continued support is needed to keep the camp up and to make further improvements.

Attention AFLC Bible Camp Deans

The deans of our AFLC Bible Camps are asked to send pertinent information about the 1981 camping season to the Editor at Newfolden, Minn., so that this may be shared with our readers. Please send such information by May 16. A picture is welcome.

Director of Development of the AFLC



Mr. Ernest Miedema
145 N.E. 12th St.
Valley City, N. Dak. 58072
Telephone: (701) 844-1418 (H)
844-2732 (O)
Counsellor in will, estate and gift
annuity planning. He is available
for assistance in the above areas.

ATTEND THIS SUMMER:

Annual Conference
Mpls. June 17-21

Luther League Convention
ARC July 7-12

Your area Bible Camp

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AFLTS (612) 545-5631 .75 postage

Men's retreat announced

A men's retreat will be held at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., on the weekend of April 3-4. There is no set cost per person but a free-will offering will be received. There will be an evening session after supper on Friday and two sessions on Saturday forenoon.

The speaker, Mr. Jim Sundby, will present three topics: Prophecy Updated, Family Relationships and Secular Humanism.

Please bring a sleeping bag and towels. Supper, breakfast and dinner will be furnished.

Come and receive a blessing.

Thy Kingdom Come

"Go Ye"

"And He said unto them, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation'" (Mark 16:15).

"And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

Many, who insist on being called Christians, consider it quite ridiculous to sacrifice young people and money on missionary work among the heathen.

But such a view is entirely un-Christian. The last words of Jesus to His own here on earth are as clear as they are strong. He says we are to go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who has all power in heaven and on earth will be with His messengers always. It is by virtue of

His omnipotence that He can give both the command and the promise.

The Christian who in spite of this is indifferent to missionary work has entered upon a devious and a dangerous way.

It has been said that the love that does not carry us across the ocean has a broken pinion. It has also been said that it is human to love one's own, but divine to love the world; also that the Christian society that ceases to send the Gospel to the heathen, will soon cease to be evangelical.

As a mother cries for help when she sees her child in danger of death, so Jesus cries to us to bring the Word of life to a dying generation. Have you

heard Jesus call to you to go? Blessed are you that heard and went! Jesus is with you always.

Sing to the Lord a glorious song,
Sing to His name, His love forth tell;
Sing on, heaven's host, His praise pro-
long;

Sing, ye who now on earth do dwell:
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain;
From angels, praise; and thanks from
men;

Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
Glory and power! Amen! Amen! ✠

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LAST WORDS

**"Lift up your eyes
and look on the fields; for
they are white already to
harvest" (John 1:35).**

These words of our Savior bring to our minds foreign missions. We are reminded of the millions of people who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, weighed down by the awful misery of sin, without knowledge of salvation, without ray of hope.

Is it possible for us who have the means of grace to rest content in our possession of these treasures without telling these unfortunate people about them? It appears that it is possible for some people. A great many are indifferent as to missions, others openly scoff at them. And yet they call themselves Christians.

"Last words" usually carry a special weight. Among the last words spoken by Jesus before His ascension were these: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Can a Christian then neglect to carry out His Master's orders? Isn't Christ our King? He expects every Christian to do his duty, and to do it *now*.

Missionary activity belongs indeed to all time as long as there are sinners to be saved. But we have every reason to believe that this time in which we live is in a special sense a missionary age. Indeed, it seems that this is the decisive hour of opportunity which we must make the most of. The opportunity is ours—so is the responsibility. "The fields are white already to harvest." They are waiting for workers. Then pray, dear Christians, and weary not of praying that the Lord will send workers into the fields. For there is now as never before an open door.

Let us be thankful for what has been accomplished. But much, so much, remains to be done. Let us not rest satisfied now without being willing to sacrifice, that more may be accomplished. "The Master is come and calleth for thee." For *thee*! Can you refuse? Oh, enter wholeheartedly into this, the greatest of all rescue work.

Ever more insistent comes the call to us from heathen lands: "Come over and help us!" Come with your prayers, come with your money, come with your work! Come with all your heart!

Hear the heartrending call from afar: Oh, Christian friends, give heed to our call! We are without comfort, without hope. We dare not die before you come. Oh, come before it is too late! †

Søren Dahl
(Courtesy, Tract Mission)