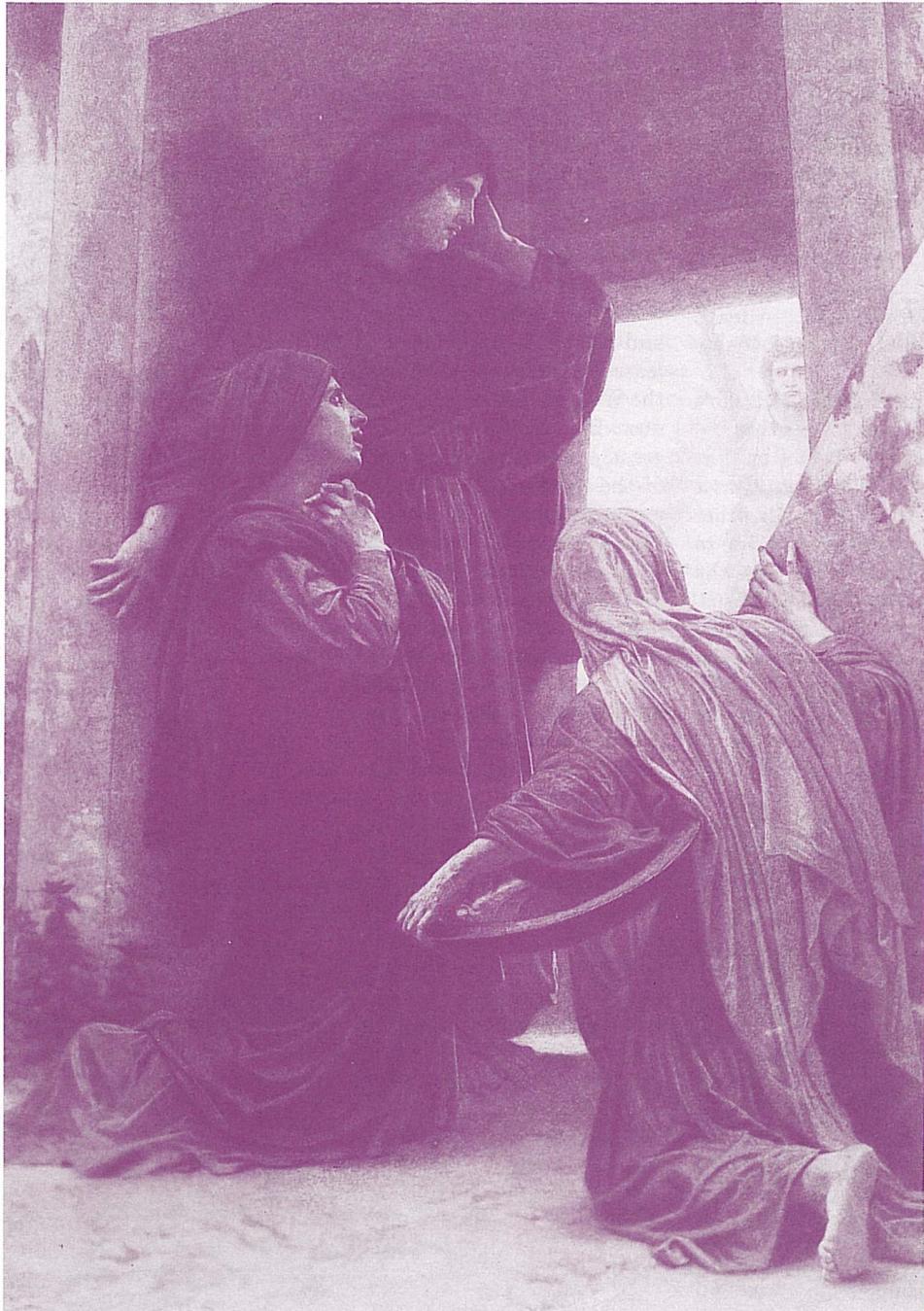


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

March 18, 1980



RNS Photo

"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN"

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Gary Skramstad



“This Jesus hath God raised up”

Peter delivered a stirring sermon on that very special day when the Holy Spirit came upon those early believers. Accusations were coming from the crowd that these men were drunk. But Peter shared a message with these who were so amazed. His central thought was not that of the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost. He spoke about the prophesied Jesus who was put to death and whom God had raised up (Acts 2:32).

The Book of Acts is related to Luke's Gospel. As one ends and the other begins the theme of the risen Christ is pre-eminent. Truly the risen Christ separates Christianity from all other religions. The Holy Spirit was given to convict of sin and convince that the risen Jesus is God's salvation for us. Those 40 days following Easter Sunday

morn established His followers with many infallible proofs. They were so persuaded that they would be willing to die. And many did!

As we follow the progression of the Church we see the allegiance to the resurrection. After the healing of the lame man in Acts 3, Peter again preached a sermon centered around the risen Christ. In Chapter 4, Peter and John were imprisoned. At their release the believers prayed together and the Word of God was shared with boldness. In verse 33, we read, “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Paul's conversion came through the voice of the living Savior. We can follow the movement of the disciples and hear over and over again the story that never becomes dull or old. Truly those who know the story best seem hungry and thirsty “to hear it like the rest.”

Imagine what our life would be like if Christ were dead. We would be groping for answers and grasping at anything that might make God love us enough to allow us into His Kingdom. Think of the old Egyptians. They carved dolls out of old paddles for the Pharaohs. Some of these ancient dolls are in the British Museum in London. They remind us that even ages ago the most noble and powerful feared the world to come. These dolls were made without legs so that when buried with the Pharaohs they could not run away. Even the Pharaohs didn't want to die alone. We do not need to have lifeless dolls made for our burial. We have a living Savior who will go with us even through the valley of the shadow of death.

The living Savior knows us. If we

confess our sins to Him we will be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. Our names will be written in the Book of Life. The Savior conquered death. Because He lives, we, too, shall live. Someday He will come for each of us. The living Savior desires to be your Savior. No longer do you have to only hope or guess your eternal destiny. All doubts and superstitions can die. All our goodly and godly deeds can be left behind. All of our answers and knowledge can be silenced. Jesus can come. He will take us to His home. Yes, our new home. Only because He lives will it be possible for the experience of heaven to be ours.

Certainly we are joyous that Heaven is our home. But remember that this great power of God that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power to make your life complete in Him. Where are you empty? Where are you defeated? Where in your life can only God help you? This life can be less than pleasant for all of us at times. We struggle. We become weary, lonely, depressed, and a host of other very real feelings would take residence in our hearts. Look to Jesus your living Savior. Allow His resurrection power to save you from all that would steal your inheritance as God's child. Believe that Jesus is living. Pray, and expect Him to answer. Trust His Word, which can dwell in you. As the Word becomes living in your life, the power of God will change you into a new creature. Old lifestyles, desires, habits, goals, responses and feelings will diminish and die.

If Christ were still in the grave we would be most miserable. But He is risen! He lives! May Jesus live in our hearts.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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

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

Layout design: Solveig Larson.
Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send annual \$4.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Volume 18, Number 6

USPS 588-620



by Pastor Marvin Haara, Sacred Heart, Minn.

"He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

Perhaps the most exciting event ever to take place is that of the resurrection. It is this event which has great significance to all people. There is no greater happening ever recorded that has such bearing upon, not only this life, but eternity. Everyone is affected by Jesus' resurrection in one way or another, especially His believers.

To a great deal of people the resurrection signifies only something future. They believe that when they die they shall, like Jesus, be raised up from the grave. However, Luther shows us the resurrection has meaning and power for this life also. We want to consider some blessings which we receive through the resurrection.

In the first place, Luther teaches us that "the resurrection assures us that Christ is the Son of God, and that He has conquered death and *fully* satisfied for our sins." Were it not for the resurrection, even though Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we still would be in our sins. If there were no resurrection, our faith would be in vain, empty and without value or importance. In I Corinthians 15:17, Paul says, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." Without the resurrection, then, we would still be no better off than before. He continues to say in this chapter that Christ did indeed rise, fully satisfying for our sins. In verse 57, we read, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory *through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" This includes the forgiveness of sins and the

final victory over death that we can experience when we come to this Savior who rose victorious for us.

Romans 4:25 tells us, "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Our justification means the "act of God whereby He for Christ's sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him, in Christ, as though he had never sinned." Praise God that through Jesus we can have this standing before God. However, this is conditional, depending on whether or not we are *truly repentant* and *believe from our hearts.*

The second blessing of the resurrection that Luther teaches us is that "the resurrection gives us power to arise from spiritual death, and to live a new and holy life." Were it not for the resurrection power, we could not live the kind of life God expects His children to live. A person can be very much alive in the physical sense but, so to speak, be a living corpse. If one has not come to Jesus to have Him bestow this life, he is spiritually dead and has no real life.

The Good News of Easter

a person cannot accomplish on his own but happens only when we, as poor condemned sinners, *come* to Jesus with the need which God through His Holy Spirit has worked within us. When we come to Jesus and arise from spiritual death, it affects the present life we live. By God, through Christ and His resurrection, this life is changed. This is the proof that the resurrection gives meaning to this life we now live, or we would not have power to live the new and holy life for Christ.

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" is what Titus 2:12-14 tells us. The resurrection gives us power to "live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." Those who come to Jesus and receive Him as their Savior and Lord then experience the resurrection power.

"When we come to Jesus and arise from spiritual death, it affects the present life we live."

In Ephesians 2:1, Paul says, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." This quickening is the rising from spiritual death that Luther teaches about. There is a change that takes place of which Paul speaks. This change is something that

Paul shows us, in Romans 6:4, "That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in *newness of life.*" Christ bestows on us the power to walk in this newness of life. We walk in a way which reveals that we have something different, not of ourselves. It comes from Christ and His resurrec-

BLESSINGS of the RESURRECTION

A VISIT TO BRAZIL

Staff children and friends



Revelations revealed by Ricardo. (Ricardo is a young boy who is temporarily living at the Institute since his family moved to Curitiba. He has been attending English school because he wants to learn to speak English.)

My name is Ricardo Chalegre dos Santos. I am 14 years old. My favorite hobby is sports. I like to practice basketball, handball, soccer and ride skateboard. I also enjoy judo. There are other sports I like also but I practice them too little to know much about them.

I like to go to church very much. I, like everyone else, should feel the need to go to church for we all should love and praise God for He guides us each step of the way.

I admire the United States very much. I think it is one of the major powers of the world. It is also a major power as far as religion is concerned. I thank God that He has sent so many good people from the States to preach in Brazil, in the Institute and in other areas as well.

Brazil is going through a very difficult period in all areas. Therefore I ask God every day that He may bless the Brazilian authorities. Our country is

Continued from the February 19 issue . . .

Meet Magna and Fernando, the children of Laurita and Moacir Fernandes. Laurita is the cook at our Bible school in Brazil.

Musings of Magna. Magna is the 11-year-old niece of Laurita and Moacir and has lived with them for three years. The thing that she likes most to do is help in the kitchen and her least favorite thing is having to study. Magna's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:1

Footnotes from Fernando. Fernando was born February 23, 1979, and is our youngest blessing here at the Institute. He is a favorite with everyone. There is usually an argument going on as to who gets to hold Fernando next. He rarely cries and is very good-natured. He likes to be outside the house where he can look at the trees and he also likes to play with the family dog.

Brazilian cuisine

Magna's recipe for Bolo da agua (water cake): (These recipes really work too!

3 eggs

1 cup flour

1 cup water

1 cup sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

Mix all the ingredients. Butter the pan; put the dough in the pan; put it in the oven and wait until brown.

Shannon's recipe for Bolinhos

1 cup flour

3 eggs

1/2 cup chopped onions

1 cup water or milk

Mix until "kind of" runny and fry in oil (drop by teaspoonfuls in hot oil).

RESURRECTION . . .

tion. Paul also speaks of being made new in II Corinthians 5:15-17, where we read, "And that He died for all, that they which *live* should not henceforth live unto themselves, but *unto Him* which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become

new." We live not unto ourselves but unto Him who died for us and rose again. For many their whole lifestyle changes, as the old life no longer satisfies. Power comes from Christ to live the new life, for no one can live for Him unless they have Him living within.

This newness can best be illustrated by some personal experiences in life. For example, the person who has been controlled by alcohol no longer lives the drunkard's life. Or consider the person who has had the habit of taking the Lord's name in vain. When he receives Jesus as Savior and Lord, his

language is changed also. How is it possible to stop cursing or drinking when it has been almost second nature? He no longer is in that old way but lives a *new life* cleansed by Christ, with the resurrection power to abstain from these habits. So we can clearly see that in this life we are very much affected by the resurrection. Even if one has not practiced what we consider outward sins, still a change can be observed when life is turned over to Jesus' control.

The Catechism asks the question, "How does this new conduct appear in

still underdeveloped, but now Brazil is moving forward. I hope that with the help of God Brazil will get organized and better things will develop here.

Tidbits from Tamara (written by her mommy).

Tamara is the daughter of Janet and David Abel. She celebrated her second birthday on November 18. Tami enjoys living next door to the Bible Institute where there are all kinds of animals for her to watch. She is quite a little talker and knows the names of the animals as well as the names of the students and staff. She also knows the names of many of the people at church and really looks forward to going. When you ask her who she will see at church she starts listing our members. She is learning choruses in English and Portuguese although her speaking vocabulary is mostly English. Tamara's favorite activities are going on walks around the Institute, going shopping and going to church. She also likes to play with our dog Nikki and help feed her pet rabbit, Skipper. She'll go outside whenever she has a chance!



Dialogue with Daniel (written by Pastor Gottle).

Daniel is the son of Loidi and Yeddo Gottle. He was two years old on October 24th. Daniel enjoys playing with other kids. He usually pinches them or sticks his tongue out at them when they don't pay any attention to him. He has learned how to open the doors and tries all kinds of keys when the doors are locked. Recently he learned how to use his feet in riding his little tricycle. One Sunday while we were visiting some friends who had puppies, Daniel decided that he was going to own one, too, so he got hold of one and wouldn't let go. Now he has a dog which he really loves and they are what you would call "inseparable friends." We are trying to teach him German, but he hears quite a bit of Portuguese, too, so in the end we think he is going to be speaking a mixture of Portuguese and German. Daniel's favorite activities are going to church, visiting his grandparents, going for rides and playing hide and go seek with his little playmates. (Daniel is now in the U.S. with his parents, so he will learn to speak English, too.)

—Cindy Alpert

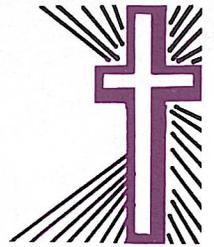
the daily life of a Christian?" Luther answers: "A Christian denies himself, strives against the devil, the world, and his own flesh; he grows in love toward God and man, and seeks to do the will of God in all things." The new and holy life can be summed up in "*seeks to do the will of God in all things.*" We do not become so perfect that we do not sin any more, but the overall attitude is to *seek* to do the will of God in all things.

The third and final blessing we want to consider is that "the resurrection assures us that our bodies shall arise in

glory on the last day." This is probably the blessing that most think of in this regard, a Christian's great hope for the future. Though the final blessing is future, we must prepare for it now by coming to know Christ in this life. Then when death comes to us, we need not fear but depart with full assurance that we *shall* be raised up to be with Christ. Not all have this hope because they have not received Jesus as their Savior from sin.

In conclusion, I leave you with these words from Matthew 28:7, which read: "And go quickly, and tell His disciples

Easter Hymn



Rejoice! He is arisen!
The victory is won!
No power could Him imprison;
He is the Mighty One!
Now through His blood-bought merit
The Lord will pardon give;
His Kingdom I inherit,
He lives and I shall live!

Farewell, Good Friday's sorrow!
All fear and grief, farewell!
And Welcome, Easter morrow!
Thy message can dispel
The grievous doubt and sadness,
That did my soul possess;
Christ fills my heart with gladness,
He is my righteousness!

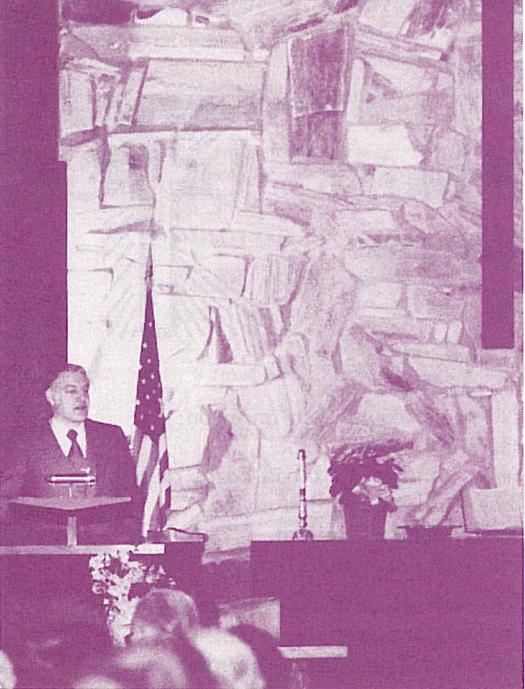
O praise Him, every nation,
And praise Him, saints above,
For life and for salvation
And for His wondrous love!
He fought the powers infernal,
And conquered death and hell;
His glory is eternal,
His praise all saints shall tell!

Lord Jesus, guard and keep us
In every storm and strife!
Thou art our Rock and Refuge,
The Way, the Truth, the Life!
Bestow on us Thy blessing
And help us to believe,
And then in Heaven's mansions
At last our soul receive!

C. K. Solberg

(This song may be sung to "O Living Bread from Heaven")

that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Have you experienced the resurrection power in your own life? Do you know the reality of the resurrection as more than a historical act and have the real hope of being raised up to be with Christ? If so, may we, as His disciples, go quickly and tell others that Jesus Christ truly has risen and can bestow on each and every one His life-giving power. If not, may you receive Him into your heart and life today!



Pastor Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Report on the Winter Bible Conference

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9). That was the text Pastor Wallace Jackson, Wallace, S. Dak., used for his three evening sermons at the 18th annual Winter Bible Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held at Sunnyside Lutheran Church, rural Stacy, Minn., Feb. 13-16.

On Wednesday night he spoke on "You are God's Building." God's Church is composed of people, Pastor Jackson declared, and because this is so, those who become building blocks in it must first be broken by the Law so that they may be fitted in their place. But we are *builders*, too, and must build wisely upon the cornerstone which is Jesus Christ. The Lord wants to work *in* His own and *through* them. There won't be any tears in heaven, Pastor Jackson reminded his audience, but how will we feel about our lives and how we have lived them, how we have built?

"You are God's Husbandry" was the topic for Thursday evening. The speaker referred to Jesus as the True Vine and Christians as the branches. He also used the story of Jesus cursing

the fig tree to show how some lives are not fulfilled. Even as Jesus found no fruit under the leaves, so some lives are barren spiritually. Pastor Jackson asked whether God looks on the AFLC as a likely fruit-bearer in Lutheranism. And what of our individual congregations? Do they exhaust themselves in activity which does not bear fruit, only leaves? Grow in grace, he exhorted the conference, and in the knowledge of the truth.

The exciting concept of being "Labourers Together with God" was the theme of the final conference evening service. The popular concept of the brotherhood of man as seen through the eyes of the humanist was contrasted with Christ's view of man's soul when He prayed (John 17) "that they all may be one" (in Him). Pastor Jackson went on to set forth some principles about prayer and work as seen in the Book of Nehemiah (the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem). Four points were considered: prayer and labor must be in earnest, must be continued, must be definite and must be corporate.

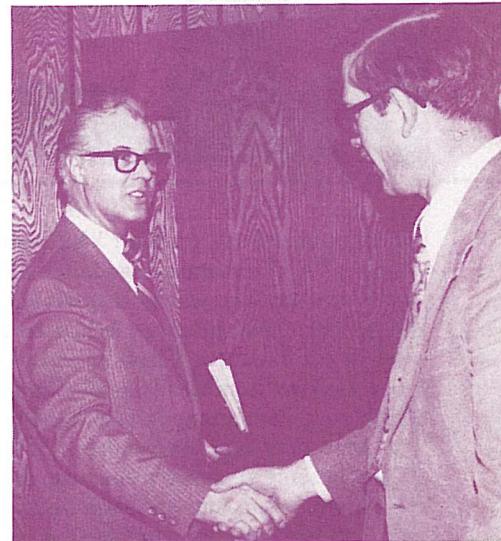
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn., led the five conference Bible studies, using the Book of Galatians as the Scripture. He pointed out that it was a book for Paul's day, for Luther's day and for our day. He showed repeatedly, from Galatians, how the believer is complete in Christ and that as Paul warned the Christians then to reject all appeals to add something to the work of Christ, so we must reject all works-righteousness now.

As is the custom at all Bible conferences, a number of major lectures were made in addition to the evening sermons and the Bible studies. This year they were under the theme "The Church in God's Plan." The first to speak was Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak., on the topic, "The Enemies of the Church." He identified them as three: the devil, the world and our own flesh. He went on to discuss the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3, pointing out the particular problems existing in them, caused by the probing of the evil one, and how we should learn from those churches today.

On Thursday, Mr. Donald Rodvold, music director of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, considered

"The Church in Worship." Lutherans, he said, run the gamut as to types of worship used, from grand pagentry to "just a fellowship" and it is good to recognize the excesses in whichever direction they may be. Mr. Rodvold called attention to Kirkegaard's reminder that in the worship service the congregation is not the audience, but the cast (together with the pastor, choir, etc.); God is the audience. Worship is good and right, he declared, when it is done decently and in order, with reverence and awe in every part. Let nothing detract from the soul's meeting with God or hinder it.

"The Church Ministers to Youth" was the subject of Rev. Bruce Dalager's presentation. He is from Mentor, Minn., and is chairman of the Youth Board of the AFLC. The church is always only one generation from extinction, so it is fragile in a sense, but because of our faith in God, it isn't. Adolescence is a tremendous time to reach our young people for Christ, he said. It is the time when many make decisions concerning conversion, career and life's companion. Youth need security in the church, Pastor Dalager averred, and adults should do their best to encourage them to take advantage of those opportunities which will expose them to a concentrated study of the Word. He emphasized the importance of good adult leadership in a congregation's youth program.



Pastor Wallace Jackson and Pastor Rodney Stueland.

[Continued on page 8]



WILLIAM CAREY

Missionary to India (1793-1833)

There was a young man long ago in England who asked some ministers if the Church had done all it could for the heathen, and received this answer: "Young man, sit down. When God pleases to convert the heathen world, He will do it without your help or mine." Who was the venturesome young man? William Carey.

Who was it that said afterwards, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God?" William Carey. Who was it that later said, when some one was talking of the great mine of heathenism, asking, "Who will go down?" "I will, but remember that you must hold the ropes"? William Carey, missionary to India for 40 years. Tuck into your memory these three things, and keep them there, for they are worth remembering.

William Carey is called the father of modern missions. Of course we want to know something about him. In the year 1761, he was born in a lowly cottage, in the little town of Paulersbury in England. His father was a schoolmaster. In this village the boy spent the first 14 years of his life, and his father gave him the best education he could. But at 14 the boy was his own master. "The bench was his seat of literature, and

the shoemaker's stall his hall of learning." The boy who, when but six years old, used to repeat sums in arithmetic to his mother, which he had worked out in his own mind, was not likely to stop learning at 14. He finished whatever he began. He used every chance he had. The room where he worked was filled with insects in every corner, and he delighted to watch them growing. He collected birds, butterflies, and animals, and was also fond of drawing and painting. He was an active fellow, and fond of the things boys love to do. He was a great favorite with those of his own age. As a shoemaker's apprentice, William Carey did his work so well that his master kept a pair of shoes to show William's good work.

While still a youth, he gave his heart to Christ, and was sometimes asked to speak in meetings in a little Baptist chapel which he attended. Thirty years afterward, the minister who baptized the young man said, "In 1783 I baptized a poor journeyman shoemaker, little thinking that before nine years had passed he would prove the first instrument in forming a society for sending missionaries to the heathen, but such was the case."

At length the church encouraged the young man to enter on the work of preaching, as he longed to do. But his master died, and the apprentice began to work for himself to pay expenses while preaching. He married at 20, and had his family to support. He preached three years at Barton, walking six miles there and back. Then he had a church in Moulton, where he had a salary of \$75 a year. He could not live on this—do you wonder?—and tried to teach school. This was a failure and he went back to shoemaking. But he and his family lived very sparingly, often going without meat for a month at a time. After two or three years he moved to Leister and built up a church there. All this time he managed somehow to do much studying. He mastered the Latin grammar in six weeks, and the Dutch language in a wonderfully

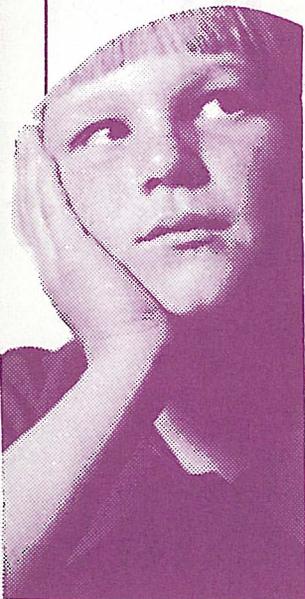
short time. Greek and Hebrew were learned without a teacher. In seven years he could read his Bible in six languages. He bought a French book for a few pence and in three weeks could read it. He found it so easy to learn a new language that it was an amusement to spread out a book before him and study as he worked.

By and by the shoemaker preacher was asked to preach before an association of ministers. It was then and there that he said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." As a result of that sermon, a Society for the Propagating of the Gospel among the Heathen was formed, in the little parlour of a lady named Mrs. Wallis. She loved to remember this, and her eyes glistened when it was mentioned.

Very soon Mr. Carey decided to go himself as a missionary. His wife felt that she could not go. There were four children, one of them a baby. The minister said he would take his oldest son and go, hoping the mother and the rest would follow. But before he sailed, the mother decided to go, and the whole family set out for India. It took five months for the voyage. On arriving, there were dreadful times and many hardships before a place could be found for the family, and Mr. Carey had to take what work he could get to support them. The money brought with them was gone, and the one trusted with it for the company of missionaries did not spend it wisely. Fifteen thousand miles from home, and the only way to get more was to work for it. Mr. Carey said that he would not depend on the society at home, but would support himself, and sent for seeds and plants for a large garden. Soon after, the five-year-old son Robert died, and no one could be found to make or to carry the coffin. Men were afraid to

[Continued on page 8]

Memory verse:
"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."
(John 4:35 KJV)





Mrs. Mauritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn. and Mrs. Richard Snipstead at the WMF workshop.



Mr. Marvin Nelson, Stacy, Minn. and Pastor and Mrs. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

CONFERENCE . .

On Friday afternoon, as the women were gathering for the Women's Missionary Federation workshop in the church parlors, Pastor Wendell Johnson, host pastor to the conference, spoke to the men on the topic, "A Husband Ministers to His Wife." He used material provided by the Institute on Basic Youth Conflicts (Bill Gothard). The hour was a substitute for one announced earlier.

The final presentation was made by Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Buxton, N. Dak. He talked about "The Influence of the Church in Society." He began by wrestling with the question:

which has the greater influence upon the other, the church or society. Regretfully, he expressed the fear that it was the latter which had the greater influence and pointed out that church members are also members of society. Society is sick and examples were set forth to show that. The cure is in Jesus Christ. Christian believers *are* salt in society, Pastor Suteland reminded his audience. And salt heals, cleanses, causes thirst for good, prevents decay and adds flavor to life. If revival is going to come to America, he said, it will come through the preaching of God's Word and faithful and obedient hu-

man channels.

Special music was provided at each evening service, including some songs by the AFLBS Choral Club on Friday. Greetings were brought by laymen of the church, who also offered the opening prayers.

Each morning there was a devotional session preceding the Bible study. Prior to the evening services there were prayer sessions.

All meals except the Friday evening meal for the men (which was eaten at the Professor's Cafe in Forest Lake) were served at the church.

R. H.

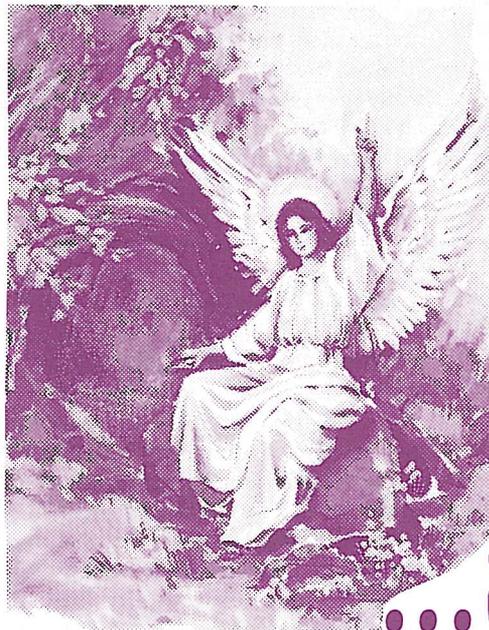
CAREY . . .

touch the little body. Soon the missionary work began, though with many trials. After five years he went to Serampore, where his great work was done. After seven years in India, he baptized the first Hindu convert, who lived to preach for 20 years afterwards.

A wonderful work was done by the Mission Press. Before Dr. Carey died, 212,000 copies of the Scriptures had been sent out in 40 different languages among three hundred millions of people.

After 40 years' labour as a missionary, professor, and translator, he fell asleep in Jesus. †

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



He is risen

...alleluia!

editorials

THE EMPTY TOMB

It is our privilege once again to greet our readers with the glad Easter message: Christ is risen! In just a few days now the pastors of our church and all Christian pastors will proclaim from their pulpits that the tomb of Jesus was empty and the angel could say to the women, "He is not here; He is risen!" What a wonderful day is Easter and the whole post-Easter season. Yes, and because there is resurrection the whole year is different for those who believe.

The task of the Church and of Christian believers is to bring the message that Jesus is risen and He is Lord! The tomb was empty and is empty. The graves of great men are known, often marked by large monuments. The burial places of religious leaders and founders of religions are known and the faithful and the curious go on pilgrimages to them. But the grave of Jesus is empty. Because He is living, those who put their trust in Him have that life within themselves and they are to be found around the world. They are the kingdom of God on earth.

Countless thousands of the faithful have died and their bodies lie buried, for they, too, were heirs of the death which came through Adam's fall. But they died in hope of the resurrection to come when their bodies will rise, glorified, to be reunited with their souls. One day the graves will open, touched by the same divine power which rolled the blocking stone from the door of Jesus' tomb.

Yes, there is a great message to be preached on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It is because Christ arose that there are Christian churches at all. Let us never forget that. Every Sunday is a little Easter, for the Lord came forth from the tomb on the first day of the week. May Easter 1980 find our churches imbued with new joy and new resolve as they enter the last two decades of this century.

We love to read about the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. We try to think what it must have been like to find out that Jesus was back again, that He was living, that it wasn't all over after all. Those were grand and glorious days and after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, there was no stopping them, literally no stopping them. Sure, some of them had to give up their lives, but that wasn't really the end for them and their example of dedication and sacrifice only fueled the fires of consecration in others.

Poor Thomas must through all history bear the appellation "doubting Thomas" and our Lord did say, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." But let us concentrate on the beautiful testimony he made after he had touched the nailprints in the hands of Jesus and His riven side. For having done this he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" That is the great Christian witness and we love it for its personal touch, "My Lord" and "My God." It is never enough spiritually to deal with historic, objective facts. It is when they become subjective and personal that they become life-changing.

It is this personal meaning and power of Easter, of the resurrection, which we pray for all our readers and which we pray the Christian Church may carry forth in this needy world of ours with new dedication in the days to come.

May you have a blessed Easter.

A GOOD BIBLE CONFERENCE

The 18th annual Winter Bible Conference followed the tradition of all those which have preceded it (17 of them), of good preaching, teaching and fellowship.

It was good to be there, Sunnyside near Stacy, and be blessed by the good things shared. Once in a while guest teachers and preachers have come to share in our programs and have had much to offer, but this year's "faculty" was all "home-grown" and it did not come behind in any respect. The Lord has bestowed many gifts upon the Association.

Many thanks to the people of Sunnyside and Hope Lutheran Churches and Pastor and Mrs. Wendell Johnson for the friendliness and hospitality shown to all us visitors. We were made to feel at home and all comforts were provided. The food was delicious.

Attendance could have been better. We heard someone remark that rising gasoline prices may have had some effect on hindering some from coming. Perhaps that was so. It wouldn't be surprising if some church events, too, begin to feel an attendance loss as travel costs soar. Time will tell about this.

But for all who could go to Stacy, the conference was a great prelude to Lent, a spiritual feast in the winter. May the Lord bless the good Seed sown those days.

CORRECTIONS

In the February 19 issue of the *Ambassador* there was an omission. The dates for the AFLC Family Camp at Osceola are August 13-17. The dates for the one at Lake Bronson were correctly given.

In the advertisement about the Norwegian language record on page 12, the recording artists are Mike and Else *Sevig*. Our apologies.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Priorities in Order

In the January 22, 1980, *Ambassador*, the editor encouraged "letters to the editor" on what the goals and priorities of the AFLC should be for the next decade. He has had little response to previous requests, but this one should bring an avalanche of letters from all areas of the church.

There are times when any institution, organization or church fellowship needs a real self analysis. One is always in order, but some times seem more crucial than others. I believe we are now at such a time and that it is necessary for all individuals to first ask themselves what they believe the purposes and goals of the AFLC are and then, secondly, to share their views with others.

We have no problem agreeing that as free and independent congregations we have joined together to carry out the tasks of the church that cannot be done by individual congregations. To accomplish that, we have established Missions, a Seminary and Bible School, printed Sunday School material and entered a number of other areas of joint interest and responsibility. Beyond those broad areas of agreement, and under the umbrella of Christ's Commission to the Church, there are at least two criteria that I suggest we consider for establishing priorities for the AFLC and also for further projects.

First—That all areas of the AFLC be able to participate or be involved in them, and

Secondly—That a great number or percentage of our people can be encouraged, blessed, or challenged by any project or event.

A couple of examples to illustrate:

We have, since our beginning, had a church-wide Winter Bible Conference and a summer AFLC Bible Camp. We have done this for spiritual refresh-

ment and also to have a church-wide fellowship. Bible camps and North Dakota farming seldom cooperate, but I have attended most Winter Bible Conferences. I have enjoyed them and been blessed by them. But the percentage of the people in the AFLC in attendance is very small. Is it much higher for the AFLC Bible Camp? As the AFLC grows larger and expands, this condition will only get worse. I am suggesting that before large expenditures are made for Association-wide gatherings that we weigh the benefits to the entire AFLC against the costs. Would we involve more people if each district, or two districts together, each had a winter Bible conference? Would more people be reached spiritually if several parishes had a Saturday or two during the year with an all-day Bible study for all ages? Parish pastors and school faculty could all be involved. Bible conferences don't involve separate permanent facilities, be they church-wide or smaller, but Bible camps do. Can we justify the cost of a church-wide Bible camp against a number of small ones? The Eastern North Dakota District has an annual men's retreat, and we have trouble getting 40 to attend. But $40 \times 9 = 360$. Would an AFLC men's retreat reach 360 men? Smaller groups could mean the loss of Church-wide fellowship, but there are other ways to do this. In other words, let AFLC

church-wide events truly serve their intended purposes and reach the entire AFLC, or let's change things to really reach more people.

The second example is that of our newly-purchased Osceola Radar Base, also featured in the same issue of the *Ambassador*. I voted against its purchase because (a) I heard no definite plans for its use, (b) it was hastily presented with little advance information, and (c) the most often mentioned use as a retirement center ran contrary to my understanding of what the church's task really is. This doesn't mean my vote was right or that I want to change the decision; nor do I write to criticize any board or individual, but I mention it because I believe it is an example of something not being of great benefit to all districts of the AFLC, and because its purchase and maintenance must compete for funds with areas that ought to be higher on our list of AFLC priorities. I am sure it has strong possibilities for many good uses, but I believe those AFLC districts close enough to use it on a regular basis should also pay for it and maintain it.

We don't have enough funds now to adequately carry out our Home and World Mission tasks, or the needs of our Schools. Let's keep our priorities in order and let the church be the church.

These are two areas of concern to me. But each one of us needs to clearly think through what we desire our AFLC to do and be.

Robert Knutson
McVille, N. Dak.

(Ed. note: No, there hasn't been any avalanche of response to my editorial of January 22, but perhaps the above letter will be the movement of another little rock to spring it forth.)

HELP WANTED

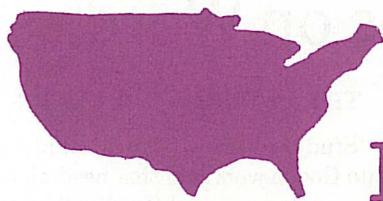
AFLBS needs a second cook, beginning September 1, or possibly sooner. Could be 9-month or 12-month position. Write to AFLBS for a job application.

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Laymen to meet

Resuming after a winter lay-off, the Northern Lutheran Laymen's Society will meet at Maple Bay Lutheran Church, rural Mentor, Minn., on Sunday, March 30, at 2:30 p.m. The text for discussion will be Revelation 11. All are welcome.

Art Joppru, Chairman
Joe Jacobson, Secretary



Home Mission News

GOALS

"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut; I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name" (Revelation 3:8).

The promise of an open door, coupled with Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations, has prompted and encouraged the Board of Home Missions to set a goal of 30 new congregations over the next ten years and to trust the Lord to provide direction and resources in achieving this goal.

At the present time there is the real possibility of beginning two new projects this summer. The two areas under prayerful consideration are Williston, North Dakota, and Burnsville, Minnesota. Some definite steps are being taken to help determine the needs and interest in these two cities. On March 19-21, Pastor Herbert Franz, chairman of the Home Mission Board, will conduct special meetings at the High School Auditorium in Williston. Also, an informational meeting about the AFLC will be held sometime during those days of meetings. In the Burnsville area, plans are underway for a group of interested persons to begin meeting together during the month of March. Pastor Robert Lee will be serving this group until such time as a decision is made to officially call a pastor and begin a work there.

HOME MISSION PASTORS' RETREAT

Pastors of the Home Mission congregations and members of the Home Mission Board met together at Osceola on Monday evening and Tuesday preceding the Pastors' Conference. The retreat involved much good fellowship as well as opportunities to learn. Pastor Richard Snipstead spoke to the

group on "The History of The AFLC," and on Tuesday afternoon Pastor Francis Monseth spoke on "The Principles of Church Growth." It is hoped that such retreats can become an annual affair. Bob and Carol Dietsche did a fine job of preparing for and hosting the retreat and Pastors' Conference. Our thanks to them for making us feel so much at home.

SUMMER TEAMS

Six AFLBS students have accepted calls to serve this summer on Home Mission Teams. The two teams being sent out will assist with Vacation Bible School, canvassing, youth Bible studies, etc. They will spend two weeks in each of the Home Mission congregations.

BUILDING PROGRAMS

Stillwater Free Lutheran, Kallispell, Mont., Our Savior's Lutheran, Dickinson, N. Dak., and Amery Free Lutheran, Amery, Wis., are looking forward to more adequate places of worship. The congregation at Dickinson plans to occupy their new addition on Palm Sunday. The congregations at Amery and Kallispell will begin building this spring.

THANKS BE TO GOD

As we look at what is happening in our Home Mission churches, we are grateful to our ever-faithful Lord. The Word promises us His continued faithfulness in the days ahead. The goals that have been set and the projects underway need the continued financial and prayerful support of every member of the AFLC. Praise God for the opportunity to labor together under the Lordship of Christ as He builds His Church!

—Pastor Elden Nelson

Pastor profits from Inter-Term studies

It has been a thrilling experience to sit in class with young enthusiastic theologians who have dedicated their lives to proclaim the truth of God's Word. This has brought back memories of when I attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul back in 1947-50.

Many seminaries no longer believe or teach that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, such as our seminary so very emphatically believes and teaches. Such emphasis causes one to truly appreciate the Word of God as inerrant, all-authoritative and with power to save to the uttermost.

I greatly appreciated Pastor Francis Monseth as teacher during the first part of the Inter-Term. He has a way of making the truth crystal clear, including his responses to questions that are asked in class. At the same time he encouraged the students to share, giving credit to the students for any contributions they made to the class. At times it seemed like we were all students (both teacher and students) searching for the truth and accepting it as a group with the Holy Spirit as the real teacher.

We took a long sober look at how the church, including a significant percentage of the Lutheran Church, especially the pastors, has gone adrift with the belief that the Bible is in error. We asked ourselves, "How could such a terrible thing happen?" and we earnestly prayed, "Oh Lord, do not let it ever happen to us!"

There were 15 students who were present during the first part of the Inter-Term: in addition to the regular students and Yeddo Gottel from Brazil, who is taking courses at the seminary this year, we were three visitors, Les Johnson, Jim Hoialmen and I. I was the only American ordained pastor.

Following the first half of the Inter-Term, time out was taken for the Pastor's Conference at our newly acquired property at the former Air Base near Amery, Wis. The seminary students were also invited to attend this conference.

[Continued on page 12]

Graduates grateful for emphasis on Word

“BUILDING YEARS”

I appreciate our seminary’s emphasis upon the Word of God, that all Scripture is inspired, that it is relevant to today’s needs. I find this especially practical and supportive in a day when so many rationalize away or reject much of the Bible.

Besides the deeper studies in Scripture and preparation in preaching and teaching, I appreciated the words of wisdom and insights shared by the instructors, gained from their experience, and have found them very helpful to me in many situations.

My years at seminary were “building years,” a time of learning to rely upon God’s grace, a time of learning to discipline myself in studies and other responsibilities, which is so necessary in the ministry.

I thank God for the privilege and opportunity of those years, which were for me an introduction to a lifelong ministry of study and growth. These years of study and fellowship with teachers and other students made a lasting impression on my life.

Pastor Ronald Knutson,
Class of 1973
Triumph Lutheran Church
Ferndale, Washington

WHAT MEANT MOST TO ME

There are two thoughts that come to mind as I think of what has meant the most to me from my years at AFLTS. First, the examples of the teachers’ personal lives have revealed to me my need for a close, personal walk with Christ. This is vital in the ministry. Before I can feed others, I must be fed from the Word. By their godly spirit, by their continuing reliance on the Lord in prayer, and by their humility, the instructors taught by their lives. I believe a student learns as much from his instructor’s spirit and personal life, as he does from the words that are shared in class. I am grateful to my teachers for the example they have given me.

Second, my teachers taught me the centrality of the Word of God in my ministry. In preaching, teaching, and counselling, I have found that the answers to our problems and the guidelines needed for our lives are in the written Word of God, and that as we ask the Holy Spirit to be our Teacher and Guide, He will guide us in all these areas.

Pastor Donald Greven,
Class of 1975
Salem Lutheran Church
Radcliffe, Iowa

THEY WERE GREAT YEARS

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

My years of studying at AFLTS were some of the greatest years of my life. It was a time of making new friends, of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And most important was studying God’s Word.

Our seminary is based on the infallible and inerrant Word of God: “Holy Scripture is the only source and norm of Christian faith and life.”

Also, in my studying of God’s Word at AFLTS I came to the realization that God doesn’t require me to be successful, but He does require me to be faithful and obedient. As we are faithful and obedient, God takes all the responsibilities. Coming to realize this made it possible for me to become a pastor. Oh, I have failed many times, but thanks be to God for the victory we have through Our Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:57).

Pastor Gordon Grage,
Class of 1979
Chippewa Lutheran Church
Brandon, Minnesota

Inter-Term . . .

The second half of the course began Monday, Jan. 21, and continued through Friday, Jan. 25. During this time we studied the Book of Acts with Pastor Robert Lee as our teacher. But again, the Holy Spirit was our real teacher. This course was an elective for the regular students, therefore, some who were present during the first week were not present now. There were seven new faces that appeared in class during the second week, making a total of 22 who attended in all. New students were Bob Blees, Robert Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Rogenes, Charles Stromquist, Lay Pastor Verle Dean and Rev. Dennis Gray.

This class period proved to be a very profitable study. This course was well

planned and quite thorough, although we didn’t have time to cover all that could have been said. But we were inspired and I was left with a desire to continue in this vein of study which we pursued for a week. The teacher was well informed and left us with much valuable and interesting information. But he was never so bent on saying what he had to say so as not to listen to the comments of the students.

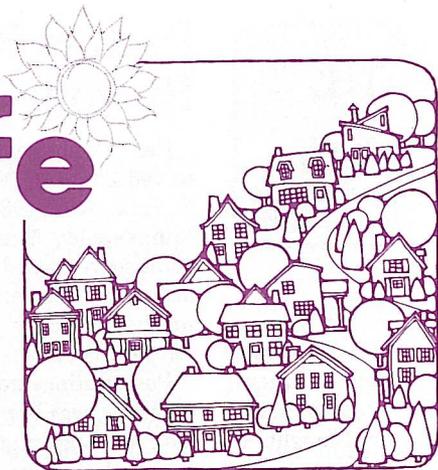
The forepart of the week was spent with the teacher giving us a historical setting of the time in which the entire Book of Acts took place. The charismatic movement was studied, taking as it does much of its doctrine from Acts. The counter claims to the charismatic movement were also ably set

forth. A helpful book on this (on which we were all asked to write a report) is *A Theology of the Holy Spirit* by Frederick Dale Bruner. I highly recommend the book and it can be purchased through the Seminary Book Store.

Taking a backward look over both parts of the Seminary Inter-Term, with its classes on “Doctrine of the Word” and “The Book of Acts,” we once more saw God’s truth as revealed to us in His Word. Surely this will help us in the Christian warfare as we maintain and proclaim God’s truth.

Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom
(Ed. note: The above report was crowded out of our special Seminary issue last time. We are sorry.)

Life on the Edge of Town



A Milestone

During the first week of February I passed a milestone of sorts because then I had outlived my father. Quite likely every son or daughter experiences a strange feeling when he or she has surpassed a parent in life span, particularly one who passed away at a relatively young age. At his death my dad's years seemed many more to me, a boy, than they do now that I have attained them myself. But I remember being aware that others thought he had been taken much earlier than he should have been.

He was an immigrant from Norway at age 17, lured to America as many other European young people were, and he did have two cousins and an uncle and his young family over on this side already. He worked in the mid-west and on the West Coast and was converted out there. He attended Augsburg Seminary, became a Lutheran pastor, married, raised a family. He got back to the old country once and saw his parents and family again. He was a poet, writing best in his native language. He did other writing, too. He liked people. He began to not feel as well as usual, was tired more. He was reluctant to go to a doctor, thinking a rest, which he never got, would make things right. Medical help came too late. But we never doubted God's ways or hand in all this; we wondered, but we never doubted. And there has been the strong belief in life after death and reunion one day, and there still is.

And now I have exceeded my father's life span. I have had more time than he did. And more time means more opportunities and responsibilities. How are they being met? How will they be? Thoughts that come to a person when he has been given more time than a dearly loved father.

Gardening Thoughts

I have read about people looking at garden seed catalogs in January, for instance. Well, I haven't done much of that but on one of the last days of February I did some thinking about where the different vegetables have been planted in our garden in the first two years of its existence. I drew two maps indicating the placement. It hasn't been decided yet where this and that should go this spring, but the attempt will be made to vary locations from the previous years. The crop rotation sort of thing.

The garden plot lies under deep snow cover, which is good. The fertilizer put on it last fall should enrich the ground considerably. It isn't too early to be thinking about another season of vegetable gardening. The harvest last year was good. We can hope, can't we, for even more this summer

Faces of Ministry

The ministry. The Christian ministry. It is working with people on behalf of Christ. It is something to which a

man is first called by God, then by a congregation or mission board.

The ministry is no doubt viewed differently by those who are in it and those who aren't. There is no other way it can be, even though there will be common perspectives in some things. Since I had never been an active adult member of a congregation before becoming a pastor (I went directly from high school to college and seminary), I found it very interesting to become a "regular" member of a congregation upon coming to the Bible School at Medicine Lake in 1972. Even though I still had some pastoral duties for a couple of years, I wasn't the pastor of the church, but a member. I was looking at the congregation and the ministry from a new perspective. It was very interesting.

Recently I've had occasion to think about the ministry further in reading the book *Ten Faces of Ministry* (Brekke, Strommen and Williams), published by Augsburg Publishing House, but produced out of research of Search Institute, based in Minneapolis. The sub-title of this easily readable book is "Perspectives on Pastoral and Congregational Effectiveness Based on a Survey of 5000 Lutherans."

Now the AFLC was not involved in this survey among lay persons, parish pastors, seminary professors, senior seminarians and district or synodical presidents and executives, but there are many things in the results from which any of us could learn. A pastor finds himself evaluating himself. Lay members (call committees?) of congregations will identify those qualities in pastors which they most appreciate and value in a man's ministry.

The Christian ministry is an extremely important work. It behooves us to give it more thought and to intercede more for it and those in that office. To that end we do well to make use of those tools which help us to understand it better.

—Raynard Huglen



A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



Pastors Ringstad, Ringdal die

Rev. Johannes Ringstad, 82, who served Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton, N. Dak., from 1938-48, passed away in Minneapolis, Minn., on Feb. 22. Funeral services and burial were at Willmar, Minn., his retirement home. He is survived by his wife Ella (Skovholt), a son and two daughters.

Pastor Ringstad, known as an able preacher, was born in Norway. A graduate of Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, he served parishes at Battle Lake, Minn.; Northwood, N. Dak.; the Bronx, N. Y.; Escanaba, Mich.; Ashby, Minn.; and Superior, Wis. He edited the Lutheran Free Church Calendar from 1935-42.

Rev. Palmer W. Ringdal, 62, lately of Frontier, Sask., passed away Jan. 8, in Pasqua Hospital, Regina, Sask., from cancer. His funeral was conducted at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hawarden, Sask., and burial was in the churchyard. He leaves his wife Marion, who had formerly been married to his brother, five daughters, a son, three brothers and two sisters.

Saskatchewan-born, Pastor Ringdal took his theological studies at Luther Seminary in Saskatoon, Sask., and was ordained into the ministry of the LFC in 1950. He served parishes at Viscount-Bulyea-Simpson, Sask., Westby, Mont., Barton, N. Dak., Sherwood, N. Dak., Earl Grey, Sask., and Frontier.

Blessed by their memory.

(Ed. note: Palmer Ringdal was a neighboring pastor during much of my first pastorate. We shared good fellowship. He was a pastor of good humor, good spirit and good courage.)

suffering and death He has taken all of our punishment for us. Now He offers us pardon and eternal life as a free gift. And God's Word declares, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." God is inviting us to settle our case outside of court today by receiving Christ's offer of salvation from a God ready to pardon. What will the outcome be? You and I determine that outcome by what we now do with God's gracious offer of eternal life in Christ.

What will the outcome be?

II Corinthians 5:10

"What will the outcome be?" This is the question that arose in my mind as I was sitting in a courtroom recently. I had been summoned to appear in District Court for jury duty. Thirty of us jury candidates were waiting to hear who would be chosen as jurors that day. I watched two attorneys and their clients enter the courtroom. Seeing those men who were involved in the trial that was about to begin, I thought, "What will the outcome be?"

Finally the bailiff instructed us all to rise for the entrance of the Judge. Following the taking of roll call, the solemnity of the occasion became evident as we all took an oath. Then six people were chosen for jurors. How interesting it was to observe the great care used in selecting jurors who were deemed suitable. Both attorneys examined the persons being chosen. Those candidates were questioned as to whether they personally knew either of the parties involved in the case or if they thought they would experience any difficulty in serving on the jury for that trial. After the required six jurors had been selected, they took an oath to be fair. Although I was not one of those selected, I decided to remain for a portion of the trial in order that I might learn more about our court system.

As the trial was about to begin, the Judge instructed the jurors as to what their duties were. They were to listen carefully to the testimonies, weighing the evidence given. And they were not to discuss the case with anyone until after the trial was over. Having explained the jurors' duties, the Judge next explained the nature of the case. Again I thought, "What will the outcome be?"

The attorney for the plaintiff presented to the jury the case for his client. The case for the defendant was next presented by his attorney. After

the defendant took his oath, he was questioned in detail by both attorneys. Likewise the plaintiff was called to testify. The impartial jury sought to weigh the evidence being presented as they listened attentively.

I sat as an observer at the trial throughout that day. However, the jurors sat there yet another day. Then followed over ten hours of deliberation by the jury as they decided the case. My question, "What will the outcome be?" was answered a few days later when I read in the newspaper that the jury had concluded that the defendant was guilty.

To be a neutral observer at a trial was an extremely interesting experience. As I sat there, I thought about a tremendous court case that is pending, namely, the one when we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

On that day the Judge will indeed be an honorable one, for it will be God Himself. The Bible says He is a righteous Judge. Actually God will judge through Christ since He has committed all judgment unto the Son.

The immensity of the crowd at that trial will be beyond imagination. II Corinthians 5:10 states that we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Each of us will stand trial for the innumerable times we have broken God's holy Law. Abundant evidence will be brought against us as we are judged by what is written in God's books. All secrets of our hearts will be made known. The whole world will be found guilty before God. And the deserved verdict will be a life sentence (eternal death). This is what the outcome should be for every one of us.

But the Bible has wonderful news for us—that "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God's own beloved, guiltless Son has stood before the judgment seat in our place. By His

With our evangelist

McVile, N. Dak.

New Luther Valley Lutheran Church

Mar. 30-Apr. 3

Wesley Langaas, pastor

Hampden, N. Dak.

Zoar Lutheran Church

Apr. 6-10

Pastoral Vacancy

Cleveland, O.

Word of Life Lutheran Church

Apr. 15-20

Emerson Anderson, lay pastor

Rev. Kenneth Pentti is the speaker at all these services. Support this evangelism effort with prayer.

Personalities

Rev. Robert E. Rieth, who has served Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., since 1967, has resigned as pastor effective June 15. Future plans are indefinite at this time.

Rev. Arnold Stone, Alexandria, Minn., spoke on the Book of Revelation in services at Zion Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minn., Rev. Dennis Gray, pastor, Mar. 9-13. The overall theme was "God's Great Plan for the Ages."

Pastor R. S. Persson, Bemidji, Minn., will speak at special meetings at Ortlely Lutheran Church, Ortlely, S. Dak., Mar. 30-Apr. 1. The local pastor is son-in-law Bill Moberg.

Interested in the FLY team?
Contact Kevin Spading
10447 N.E. 110th
Kirkland, Wash. 98033

Former AFLBS students to begin second year of study in Brazil; await FLY team arrival this summer

After what seemed infinite hours of travel, Priscilla Wold, Holly Thompson and I finally arrived at Campo Mourão. From the bus station we took a "taxi" consisting of a horse-drawn cart to the mission. The three of us and all our luggage—what a sight! There we were warmly welcomed by Connely and Carolyn Dyrud, David and Janet Abel, and Karen and Carlos Santos. Shortly thereafter John and Ruby Abel and George and Helen Knapp arrived and the Annual Conference was held.

Since we came, three weeks of Bible Camp have been held. Through these camps, over 30 young people have given their lives to the Lord. Praise God! It is so exciting to travel half-way around the world and see how the Lord is moving everywhere!

My first time in Brazil was July of '77 when I came with seven others on F.L.Y. to Brazil. On the weekends we would visit some of the six churches here. During the day we would visit people's homes sharing songs we'd learned in Portuguese, and Pastor would lead the family in Scripture and prayer. We also had opportunity to attend a Bible Camp and help with cooking, cleaning and canteen. Other days were spent fixing up buildings, painting and varnishing. Some days we spent touring the beautiful sights of Brazil: Rio De Janerio, San Paulo and Iguacu—the world's largest and most spectacular falls. This was one of the most delightful and rewarding months of my life. God used that month to speak to me about attending our Bible School in Minneapolis where Holly and I spent last year. That led us here where we plan to spend our second year studying with the Brazilians.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new FLY team this coming summer. Young and old alike consider it a challenge to see our work in Brazil first hand. This year's team is planning an additional trip up the Amazon to visit the work in Rondonia where Knapps and Priscilla Wold minister. Please seriously pray and participate as the Lord leads. Pray daily for strength, health, encouragement and the Holy Spirit's leading for the missionaries. Also, pray for the nationals who come to Christ, that they would grow and become involved in the work here. The Lord is busy worldwide and He promises to answer prayer! "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (I Thess. 5:24).

Karen Ellertson,
Stacy, Minn.



The AFLC center at Osceola provided a winter weekend of retreat for many Bible school students. Pastors Ralph Rokke, pictured above, and Michael Brandt led the Bible studies.

Photo by Todd Gerholt

Making summer plans?

18th Annual Conference

June 11-15

Valley City, N. Dak.

Family Bible Camp

July 21-27

Lake Bronson, Minn.

Seminary Short Course

July 28-Aug. 8

Family Bible Camp

Aug. 13-17

Osceola, Wis.

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3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Dean of the Bible School

Rev. Kenneth Moland
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

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Rev. Eugene Enderlein
P.O. Box 275
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

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Mr. Vernon Russum
Route 3
Grafton, N. Dak. 58237

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1301 Wilson Avenue
Cloquet, Minn. 55720

Secretary

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1203 Park St.
Boscobel, Wis. 53805

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Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55429

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717 N. Granum
Fosston, Minn. 56542

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Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

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DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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145 N.E. 12th St.
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EVANGELIST-YOUTH WORKER

Rev. Kenneth Pentti
513 Cleveland Ave.
Ishpeming, Mich. 49849

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Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

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Mrs. Reuben Wee
960 9th Avenue
Granite Falls, Minn. 56241

Treasurer

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Valley City, N. Dak. 58072

Executive Secretary

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324 N. Arnold
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

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