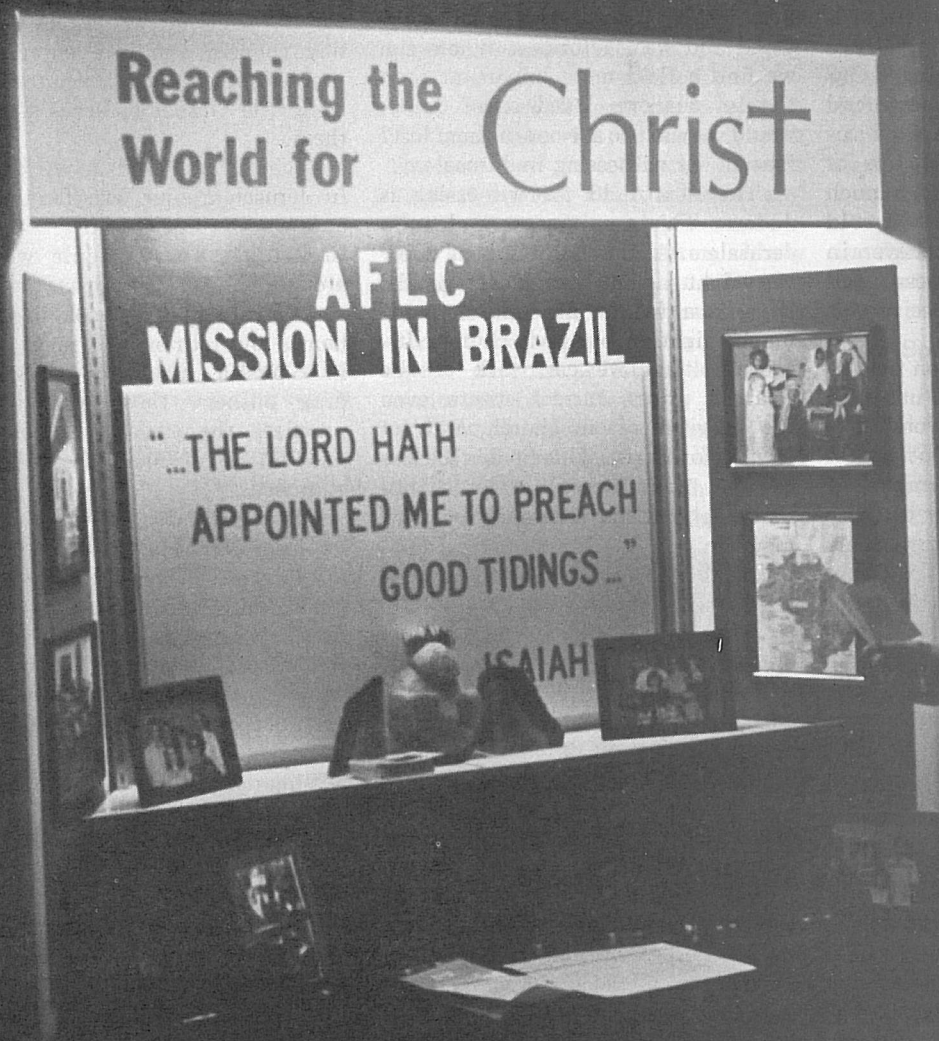


March 20, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador



In this issue: *AFLC World Missions*

MEDITATION MOMENTS

"GO YE"

Our Lord's command to His intimate followers was to "Go into all the world, teaching and baptizing." Our immediate response to this command is to think of darkest Africa, of unreached South America, Mexico or India; however, this command is much closer to each one of us than we would like to admit. If we are true believers in Jesus Christ, we are His witnesses and are also in a position to receive this command, "Go Ye."

Each believer has a mission field in which to witness and it need not be in the far-flung corners of the world. The numbers who can go to the uttermost parts are very limited. It is important to support those who do go to these areas, but merely sending our dollars does not fulfill the obligation within our own personal field.

Let us examine the different fields that Christ has laid before us, in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The first field mentioned is Jerusalem. Jesus told His disciples to begin where they were. Mission work begins at home. This may be the hardest field of all. We are too well known at home and our little failures and shortcomings are there to contradict us. Jesus Himself was not accepted by the people in Nazareth, or even by His own

brothers. He didn't give up, but persevered and was victorious. Where can we find a field more important than that of our own loved ones? Truly, would we want to see one of them lost? How is our witnessing in Jerusalem?

The next field for witnessing is Judaea. This area was next door to Jerusalem. A mission field next door? yes, right among our close friends, there is a field white unto harvest, maybe right in our own church. It's strange that we can talk of the weather, prices, current events, even the activities of our church, and not witness for Christ. This field is so close and yet so neglected. "Go ye" to that neighbor, that friend, that church member.

The third field noted in our text is Samaria, the country just north of Jerusalem. In John 4, we read the account of the woman at the well. In this situation there were differences in doctrine, in nationality and in behavior. In our situations these differences may refer to people in another church, to people of a different skin color or of another nationality. We may find it less pleasant, witnessing to this group. They may criticize, ridicule or even become hostile or abusive. The Samaritans are prevalent and we have them all about us. Christ says, in John 4, the fields are white, already to harvest.

The fourth field is the world, to the ends of the earth. Certainly this will mean different racial groups, people of

varying political systems. Real Christian concern and love embraces all peoples and we must do what we can to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

Each of these fields is our own: In Jerusalem—our own families, the ones we love deeply.

In Judaea—those people who live around us, next door, down the street, in our church, in school, in nursing homes and retirement homes.

In Samaria—alcoholics, drug users, drug pushers, those with immoral practices, the occult, the unchurched and, in some instances, even the church.

The command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is, "Go ye"—"Ye are My witnesses." This is not an idle command, but one with serious implications. The first century church took it seriously. They reached out to all the known world, not with radio or television, but by word of mouth. A witness is one who tells others about Christ. Witnessing doesn't require a seminary diploma or a great deal of training. It takes only that power from above, that motivating force, the Holy Spirit.

As we consider world missions, let us not satisfy our conscience just by sending dollars to our faithful few in Brazil and Mexico, but let each of us become an active participant in our own personal field as well.

—Philip Featherstone

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 17, Number 6
Lutheran Ambassador USPS 588-620

BILLIONS HAVEN'T HEARD

"Rescue the perishing, care for the dying" is a song that we enthusiastically sing. Have we carefully weighed its message? Missions is rescuing the perishing! Missions is taking the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone to all those who do not know Him! Missions is sacrificing self-made plans and pleasures to penetrate the world for Christ!

In this issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, we ask you, the readers, to ponder *Missions*: What are we doing? What more can we be doing? Please do not read merely for pleasure, rather read to be challenged!

Let us ask ourselves, "Do we really believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven? Unless people near and far are confronted with the saving Gospel of Christ and come to trust Him as Savior, will they go lost? The Scriptures answer us clearly, "YES." Unfortunately, we are infected by the "spectator mentality" of modern America, in which most of us are content to be spectators. We relegate "witnessing" to the pastor, the missionary or someone else. Actually, *missions is the responsibility of each of us.*

The startling facts are that three billion people have not even heard the pure Gospel of Christ and two-thirds of the earth's population have no natural contact with any committed Christians. They *must* hear of Him, and you and I as individual believers can help make that possible.

We serve a great God. The traumas of 20th century society are not barriers to Him. Cults, isms, liberal Christianity, enemies both political and spiritual must fall when Christ's power is allowed to take hold. We have the necessary tools when we employ *prayer* and *God's Word* through the vehicle of Christ-loving believers. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, II Cor. 10:4. Dear friends, will you enter into the spiritual battle for the cause of *missions*? Will you set your will to pray? We need people who will claim peoples and nations for Jesus Christ, resisting Satan through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Will you pray? Will you tell? Will you give? Will you go?

Pastor Eugene Enderlein
Chairman
Board of World Missions

India calls

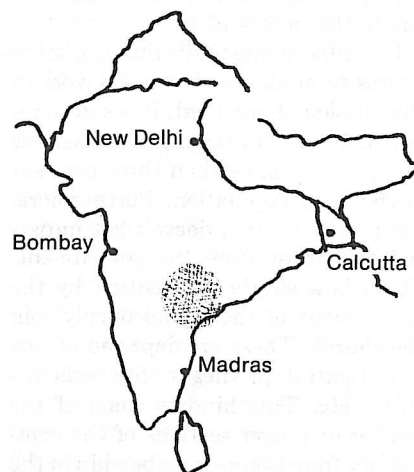
Dear Christian Friend and Fellow Believer,

Greetings in the exalted Name of our blessed Savior who has purchased us with His own blood and commanded us to go into all the world with His Gospel.

Even before our coming to this country, when we were still in India, my wife and I have always desired to have fellowship with Bible-believing and practicing Christians (that is, Christians who don't rely on their own strength but on the strength of the Lord). The Lord has led us into the fellowship of the AFLC and it is a great joy for us to minister in the Schools and to have fellowship with many believers and the pastors who come to the Headquarters at Minneapolis.

We had a great burden for the work in India regarding the proclamation of the pure Gospel, without any compromise in theology or in practical life. When we prayerfully placed our burden before the Board of World Missions, an opportunity was given to me to explain the situation in May, 1978. The Lord opened the way for the work in India through my speaking to the Board of World Missions, as well as through discussion at the Annual Conference. The AFLC decided to investigate Andhore Pradesh State, India, as possibly one of the mission fields.

My need to return to India in May, 1978, to pursue my petition to return to this country as a permanent resident



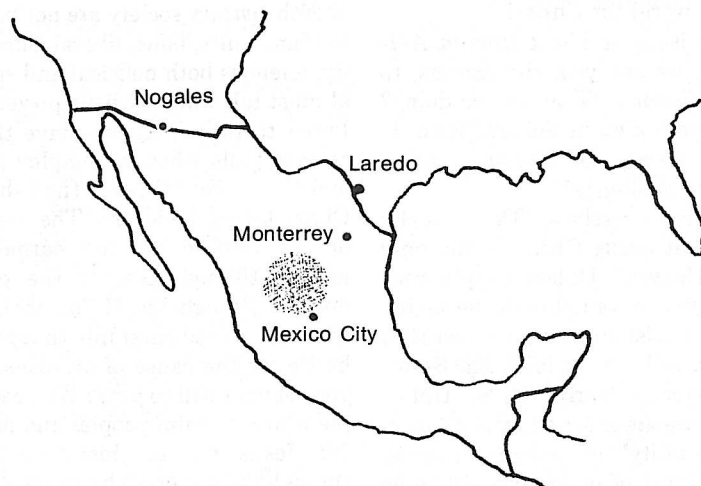
*gray circle is the Guntur region

gave me opportunities to visit many places, to contact various believers and Gospel workers, to preach the Word to various people, to administer the Sacraments, and to organize the work. The church we organized in India will be a Bible-believing Lutheran Church. It

MEXICO

ENLARGING

by Pastor Eugene Enderlein



*gray circle is the Leon region

"Hot sauce on scrambled eggs . . . strawberries as large as tangerines . . . strong embraces with enthusiastic back-slapping . . . Christian choruses happily sung by Mexican children . . . earth tremors . . . joyful fellowship with believers in Christ . . . these were some of the "unknowns" that awaited us as AFLC President, Pastor Richard Snipstead, World Mission Board Secretary Vernon Russum, and I buckled our seatbelts while the Braniff airliner lifted off the icy runway at the Twin Cities International Airport on January 19 and banked southward to Mexico.

India calls . . .

will uphold all the Lutheran Confessions and adhere to the life of piety as taught in the Scriptures. We thought of naming the church Bible Faith Lutheran Church or Bible-believing Lutheran Church. The choice of selecting a name between these two names is left to the people of India.

In India almost all the Christian groups from all over the world work in the mission of our Lord. It is sad to report that the Christian population has not grown to more than three per cent of the total population. Furthermore, the Indian Church doesn't get impartial treatment from the government. There is a subtle persecution by the government of those who openly join the church. These are deprived of certain rightful privileges, like scholarships, etc. This hinders some of the weaker or poorer sections of the community from taking membership in the church, though they come to the worship services and trust Jesus as the only Savior.

The work we started is among the Hindus and Muslims. We did not want to go in competition with the existing church work, although we surely do not co-operate in thought or action with

the churches of liberal persuasion. We do not reject anyone who comes to us from a liberal church if we know they accept the stand and the testimony of our church.

We have taken nearly 15 workers into our work. The headquarters of our work is at Guntur, the district headquarters, with a population of over 300,000 people. Among these 15 workers, two are pastors and the rest are evangelists and Bible women. All these people have had the Christian experience and they are on fire for the Lord. There are more than 30 or 40 workers who are eagerly waiting for word from us to join in our fellowship. The Macedonian call is always heard in India, especially the southern parts. The congregations are very small and are mostly from the believers who have tasted the saving love of Jesus Christ, unlike other older groups who have become Christians in the mass movements in India. There are many individual believers who faced many trials and sufferings from their own people when they came to Christ openly.

The workers are also very committed people. They are very good in contacting people, going from door to door. I

am happy to report that one blind woman who testified of the Lord in a very remote place, which is a very hard place to enter because of its situation, was used of Him to win more than 40 families to the Lord.

There are evangelists who are conducting prayer meetings in the open air (of course, it won't snow there!). The harvest is plenteous and we need to pray that the Lord would enable the Association to supply the needs of this infant church. If any would like to see the work in India personally, they would be welcome to go and witness it.

We need to have a headquarters building in Guntur. The land is more expensive, perhaps due to limited availability, and also due to inflation. If the Lord is willing, we are praying for a Bible School to teach the Word in the right way. Above all, we need prayer halls, which alone can make the gatherings convenient in the rain and in the sun. I will be very glad to answer any specific questions from anyone.

We request your prayers for this mission field that the will of the Lord might be done, leading the AFLC to decide the future course of action.

Pastor Bhushana Rao Dasari

OUR BOUNDARIES

Why did we go to Mexico? At the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations last June, approval was given for the establishment of a work in Mexico, dependent upon investigation by the Board of World Missions and its determination of what our involvement as a church body should be.

Our purpose in making this trip was to look over mission opportunities there, survey the needs, and determine whether or not we as a Church could become involved and be used of the Lord in that area.

Our destination was Leon, Mexico, the home of Pastor Samuel Flores, who fellowshiped at our Annual Conferences the past two years and expressed the desire for our partnership in the Gospel ministry there. Along the way we planned several meetings with prominent Lutheran personnel in Mexico, so that we would better understand what was already being done in Mexico to reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ.

“... the extent of friendship can be shown by the measure of backslapping.”

Pastor Flores, his family and a delegation of believers awaited us at Leon Airport. We were greeted Latin-style with big embrazos (embraces) and back-slapping. (Later I was told that the extent of friendship can be shown by the measure of back-slapping.)

The Flores apartment, located on a busy street, is where the congregation of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church meets. Their living room is totally emptied of every piece of furniture, and replaced by the altar and many rows of chairs for the services. We were impressed by the dedication of this lovely family to their father's Gospel outreach. Pastor Flores' first wife died unexpectedly about ten years ago, leaving him with five children to raise. These adult children all live at home.

Magdalena, Milton, Leticia, and Aglae are educated in the teaching profession, and in addition to teaching are studying for advanced degrees. One daughter, Alba, is in college. Pastor and Mrs. (Esther) Flores have two lovely young children, Luddim, an eight year-old daughter, and Heber, a seven year-old son. This intelligent, dedicated family assists prayerfully and financially in the ministry of Prince of Peace congregation. It was a delight to travel with them, eat meals with them and attempt to converse together. Each of us enjoyed this! The communication barrier was overcome by the fluent Spanish of Rev. Richard Gunderson, missionary with the World Mission Prayer League and graduate of AFLTS, who had joined us at Mazatlan and traveled on to Leon and Mexico City with us as our able translator.

Prince of Peace Lutheran

A special service was arranged so that we four visitors could enjoy worshipping and fellowshiping with our Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ. When the hour arrived, the room was filled with adults and children. The young ones, age ten and younger, were dressed in choir robes and sang choruses for us, whose melodies we recognized. A representative from the youth group welcomed us warmly, the young

people sang, and Pastor Flores officially welcomed us. We each greeted these brethren and I presented their ladies with a plaque from our WMF. A roughly-hewn wooden cross carved on this plaque represented our Savior's sacrifice of Himself for our sins, along with the “wood-look” from North America. Wooden items are practically unknown in this land of brick and stucco.

After this inspiring service, Pastor Snipstead played the piano, while Vernon Russum, Pastor Gunderson and I sang hymns and choruses “English-style” for our hosts. A humorous moment occurred when the words of one chorus failed our memories, and the children's choir spontaneously stepped in and sang the remaining words in Spanish.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Congregation meets on the Lord's Day, beginning with a 7:00 a.m. prayer service, followed by 10 o'clock Sunday School and the preaching of the Gospel at 11:30. Later, at 5:00 p.m. the youth meet and the evening service is held at 7. Two mid-week services are held regularly, one evening for a prayer meeting and another for a Christian Doctrine class. On Wednesday nights they meet in a believer's home across town, with the plan of establishing a satellite work in that sector of the city. Vacation Bible Schools are held both in



The Flores Family. Shown in the back row, left to right, are Magdalena, Milton and Leticia; front row, Alba, Luddim, Pastor Samuel Flores, Mrs. Flores (Esther), Heber and Aglae.

Mexico . . .

July, ending with the church's anniversary service, and in December, culminating in the Christmas Eve service. Special meetings are held three times a year. Beginning just a few weeks ago, the people are holding meetings in other cities. *Please pray for this lay witness outreach.*

A Great Opportunity

A great opportunity to proclaim the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is available in Leon. The largest city in the state, with a population of 550,000, along with an additional 200,000 in its suburbs, it has only six evangelical churches. (In Mexico, "evangelico" is a term that is applied to any religious work that is non-Roman Catholic.) There is no other Lutheran work in the entire state of Guanajuato (Wan-a-whar-to), with a population of 2,375,000. Neighboring cities of Irapuato (population of 190,000) and Celaya (160,000) are also greatly in need of Gospel ministries. This area is called the "heart of Mexico" and besides being an agricultural area, thrives with a leather industry. The capital city, Guanajuato, is in a valley surrounded by mountains and the subterranean streets were fascinating to us as tourists. The entire area abounds with delicious fruit, with roadside stands selling "freses con crema" (strawberries with cream). Pulpulent rich fruit juices are a favorite beverage. This area was also the center of the revolutions which eventually brought Mexico its independence, first against the Spanish and French, and, about 60 years ago, against the Roman Church, consisting of powerfully rich Spanish landowners. Strangely enough, however, this state has the largest Roman Catholic population in the country of Mexico.

Fellowshipping with fellow Christians was the greatest blessing of our travels in Mexico. At the Latin American Lutheran Mission border station headquarters in Laredo, Texas, we benefitted from the fellowship and counsel of Sanford Haugen, its director, who discussed mission work in Mexico with us. While we were there we were included in the birthday celebration of Clair Hobart, well-known blind musician. We appreciated the

good fellowship of brethren with the World Mission Prayer League who were having their annual meeting at Mazatlan. It was here that we were joined by Pastor Gunderson for our trip. Mazatlan is a tourist city, but the beautiful hotels and lovely beaches reminded me of "props" on a movie set. The streets behind gave evidence of stark poverty, including dead rats lying in the street. Christ the Redeemer, a church of the Mexican Lutheran Apostolic Alliance (World Mission Prayer League), conducts a Mexican Sunday School and Worship Service and an English worship service. Since this is the only English service in Mazatlan, many tourists attend from various denominations and locations, providing a wonderful opportunity for the World Mission Prayer League to proclaim the Gospel. We had a good meeting with the men of this Mexican Lutheran Apostolic Alliance, including their president, Altonio Aldama. We discussed in depth the needs for Gospel-preaching Lutheran work in Mexico and the approaches to use to reach people.

On our trip homeward we met in Mexico City with several men representing various Lutheran bodies in Mexico. It was very helpful to hear about the "mistakes," as well as the "successful approaches." A sad but true commentary is that the impact of Lutheranism in Mexico has been weak and of poor quality.

Our Conclusions:

We are deeply grateful to the Lord for opening up the door for a Gospel-preaching Lutheran ministry in León, GTO, Mexico, and for leading us to a devoted, energetic pastor-leader. The only way to develop a successful work is to proclaim the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and to develop local talent. Other Lutheran bodies which have been "pastor-centered" have not produced strong, witnessing Christians. Lay people must develop their spiritual gifts for the glory of Jesus' name. Another strong area of ministry is child evangelism, since 50% of Mexico's population is under the age of 15 years.

Will you join your Mexican brethren in prayer as they reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

The

by George and Helen Knapp

In Acts 16:9-10, in a vision Paul saw a young man calling him to work in Macedonia. Thus it was that God was calling him to a new area of work.

The call to Rondônia did not come as a dream or vision. It was a direct plea from the people of our church who had left Parana for the new area.

It was in 1973, when the pull of free land (homesteading) led people from all over Brazil, and especially Parana, to disrupt their lives and make the move, that we had the call to Rondônia. Even as they left they would plead with us to send a pastor to the area.

By 1977 the calls were more frequent and urgent, as more families had moved to the area. The field conference had been sensing the necessity of sending someone to fill the need. Helen and I presented ourselves as ready to answer the call. Our children had all left home, so we were a young couple ready for adventure, as well as answering the call of the Lord.

Subsequently, after a survey trip by Pastor Abel and me, the decision was made. In August of 1977 we made the move to Rondônia.

We are not only ministering to our own church people, who are scattered across the territory, but to the hundreds of others who are here. They all are in need of salvation in Christ.

The center of our work is in Vilhena, which was the first town in the Territory. From here we go to Colorado,



Three mahogany logs, all from the same tree, and comprising less than half of the total length of the tree. Each log is about 16 feet long. These came from near Colorado.

Macedonian call to Rondonia

about 60 miles to the south. There is also a work at Rio de Ouro, about 100 miles to the southwest. But this is not on the road to Colorado! We have families at Ariquemes, 350 miles to the northwest, where we go for a few days every 3 months or so. We are hoping to have a seminarian there in 1979.

The work is planting and watering and God gives the increase in His season (I Cor. 3:6). We have had Good News Clubs, Daily Vacation Bible Schools, and the regular services of evangelism, Sunday Schools, home Bible studies and visitation. God has promised that His Word shall not return unto Him void (Is. 55:11). Thus find that as the people hear they respond, a child here, a young person there, and not a few adults. Yet perseverance is necessary.

At times the work seems to be that of the old time circuit-riding preacher. We spend a few days with a family or families. Then we drive our "Bluebird Apartment" (Jeep pick-up with sleeping quarters) to the next home and there minister to the needs of the people. On each trip we must take our "little black book" along as there might be a baptism, communion, profession of faith or even a funeral! At times there should be a wedding!

The roads to most places are but trails opened in the forest. We pass

over roots and stumps, duck between trees, and then suddenly there is no trail. A tree has fallen across the trail. So out comes the axe, a very necessary tool on our trips, along with a hoe and cable, and after a few minutes or hours of sweaty labor, we're on our way again.

Perhaps farther on, where there is a stream with only logs across for a bridge, repairs are needed. Or a truck has had the misfortune of becoming stuck and lost its logs. So, we wait for it to be pulled out, have its logs loaded again, and be on its way. Thus it is a bit hard to keep a regular schedule.

And then it rains and the roads turn to water or mud. We stay where we are until after the rain or a few hours of drying weather. But in the rainy season there isn't much drying weather.

So a bit of food and water are also a necessity on the road.

Because of the rain and poor roads, small planes are much in evidence. There are times we use them, too, and leave the "Bluebird Apartment" at home to rest.

We have constructed two church buildings, in Vilhena and Colorado. In Colorado we are also building a small house, so the pastor can stay there on his trips. There is both material and spiritual progress, though it seems slow, according to our desires. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

The prayers of a righteous man avail much, so do not weary of praying for the mission work. We appreciate the continual prayers of the faithful.

*"The prayers of a righteous
man avail much . . ."*

Announcements from the Board

MEXICO

The Board of World Missions, with thanksgiving to God, announces that after the completion of an investigative trip to Mexico, and in accord with a resolution passed by the 1978 Annual Conference of the AFLC, it has unanimously approved the establishment of a work in Mexico. With great rejoicing in the Lord, we present this new field to the Church at large and covet your prayers for the Gospel efforts which will go forth in Mexico. We will be working through the already-established Prince of Peace Lutheran congregation in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, and assisting in the establishment of new works in the cities of

Irapuato and Celaya. Support for this work should be sent to the Minneapolis office, marked "Mexico."

MISSIONARY-TEACHER

Miss Cindy Alpert, former elementary teacher and assistant Dean of Women at AFLBS, has been accepted for short-term service at Campo Mauro, Brazil, by the Board of World Missions. We are thankful to the Lord for Miss Alpert's willingness to serve in Brazil during the furlough year of Miss Priscilla Wold. Please pray for her as she undertakes her duties, and remember her mother before the Lord during this time of absence.

(Continued on page 8)



Clearing a fallen tree off the trail.

ABELS ARRIVE IN BRAZIL

We are happy to announce that Rev. and Mrs. David Abel and daughter Tamara arrived in Brazil on February 12 to begin service at Campo Mourao. Pray for them during the difficult months of language study and adjustment. The mailing address of the Abels and Cindy Alpert is:

Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil, South America

KVANVIGS DELAYED

The Board of World Missions regrets to announce that, due to medical reasons, the departure of the Kvanvig family for Brazil must be postponed. The Board's responsibility to the Lord, the Church and the Kvanvigs necessitates this delay until Mrs. Kvanvig's recovery and the unlikelihood of recurrence is assured. The Lord's ways are often not understood by us, especially when He sees fit to allow trials and delays to come into His childrens' lives. The Board's sole desire is to be closely in tune with what the Lord seeks to accomplish through this and we ask the prayerful support of the Church for Pastor and Mrs. Charles Kvanvig and Bethany. We are trusting our Lord to provide avenues of Christian service for His servants during this period of waiting.

My first term in Campo Mourao

Many trials, victories

What's wrong? Why couldn't he understand me? It was one thing when they couldn't understand my Portuguese in Brazil, but now I was back in the States and he couldn't even understand my English! That was it! I was here in the U.S.: mentally, I was still in Brazil.

Well, that's how my furlough began. I got home December 6 and it seemed just like a dream to be back. It still does—after living in Brazil four years.

During my first year in Campo Mourao, I tried to do a little of everything. My work centered around our Brazilian Bible Institute where I was Dean of Women, a teacher and librarian. In the afternoon I taught the missionary children their American School subjects and on Saturdays I gave private English classes to people from downtown Campo. Once a week I taught Released Time Bible classes in our Brazilian Evangelical Elementary School downtown. Then, too, in our local La Parana Church, I was a Sunday School teacher and youth advisor. During the middle of the year we reopened our Evangelical Bookstore and I became the manager.

Well, you guessed it, after a year like this, I landed in the hospital—the be-

ginning of my "hospital ministry!" (I was hospitalized two other times after this.) Realizing I couldn't do all this any more, I gradually turned as much as possible over to the Brazilian Christians, (which most likely is what the Lord was trying to teach us all along through this. He's a very good teacher!) So at the end I only had my ministry at our Bible Institute, American School, and working with the women through visitation and Bible studies.

During these four years, God permitted me to have many trials and battles. But with these He also gave me many victories. He taught me many things and drew me closer to Himself. Support me in your prayers while on furlough that the Lord will guide me in telling about His work in Brazil. Pray also that Brazil will stay open to missionaries so I can go back and so more missionaries can go there—soon.

(While on furlough my address is:
Box 107

Abercrombie, N. Dak. 58001)

Priscilla Wold



Young Bible students on the road sharing the Gospel.



My two students in our American school, Christy, left, and Shannon Dyrud.

editorials

WORLD MISSIONS

Expansion. That word describes the picture in World Missions in the Association in 1979. For many years there was only the work in Brazil. It started and grew with the AFLC. In addition there has been the congregation at Nogales, Arizona, but we were never quite sure if that was Home or World Mission work. Today it is firmly established as a part of our Home Missions.

But now there are new developments on several fronts and this is an exciting time in our church. These new efforts in world evangelization come none too soon because there is such a great need and time is passing.

First, there is the reaching out to Rondonia in Brazil. As you read the article by George and Helen Knapp in this issue, you will say to yourself, "I've read this before," and you did, 12-15 years ago. For the experiences in Rondonia sound so much like those of which John Abel used to write when Parana was being opened up by homesteaders. Yes, history is repeating itself in that great vast jungle area of Rondonia. And we are there with the Gospel of Christ in a pioneer area.

Nothing is said about the "tri-nation vision" of starting work in Paraguay and Argentina, but we understand that this is very much in the thinking of our Mission Board.

Now we are officially entered into work in Mexico. We still don't know much about the details of our involvement in the work in the State of Guanajuato. No doubt we will hear more about this at Whitefish in June. But Mexico is an awakening giant in the western hemisphere. The U.S. is taking new interest in this neighbor to the south. And we will be privileged to have a part in bringing evangelical witness to hundreds of thousands of people.

Finally, we are edging toward official involvement in Lutheran work in India. Again, we don't know much yet about what we can do and what would be expected of us. It will take time to get acquainted. But what a great nation in which to work and what a tremendous spiritual need. It may be our opportunity to be along in Christian work in the great sub-continent of India. May the Lord lead and guide.

The Lutheran Ambassador has long encouraged expansion of world mission work to other nations when possible. Some of that is beginning to happen now and we are glad. However, all of us should realize that this expansion is going to demand more from us. And at the same time our support of Schools, Home Missions, and the AFLC itself must not be any less. The challenge is real. May we be up to it, in the Lord's strength.

We are glad to present to our readers a special emphasis on world missions in this issue.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS (Final)

February 1, 1978 to January 31, 1979

Fund	Total Budget	Rec'd During January	Total Rec'd	% of Total	Amount Short
General Fund	\$ 78,630.00	\$12,803.19	\$ 76,553.73	97.4%	(2,076.27)
Schools	143,190.00	22,697.51	132,345.58	92.4%	(10,844.42)
Home Missions	75,000.00	8,283.43	73,473.50	98. %	(1,526.50)
World Missions	113,512.00	11,203.53	110,912.32	97.7%	(2,599.68)
Praise Fund	35,000.00	2,851.72	28,434.93	81.2%	(6,565.07)
TOTALS	\$445,332.00	\$57,839.38	\$421,720.06	94.7%	(23,611.94)
1977-78	\$382,477.00	\$65,711.01	\$358,363.26	93.7%	(24,113.74)

Women For Christ

Grafton Hosts 1979 WMF Workshop

As we gathered for our WMF banquet and workshop on Friday, February 16, in Grafton, N. Dak., we did not escape the blustery, extremely cold weather that has prevailed this winter. This adverse condition was evident as the attendance was down considerably. Sixty-nine ladies were registered at the Federated Church where the Bethel Lutheran ladies had decorated the tables so beautifully in the patriotic and valentine tradition for the month. The feeling of Christian love and fellowship certainly was present. There were bags of "goodies" for each one. The tracts were attractive "As You Come And Go," in the shape of a travel bag, contained the 121st Psalm: the Lord is thy Keeper. "Behold The Woman" reminded us again that different types of people are able to witness to others. There was the business woman, Lydia, (Acts 10:11-40); the urban Samaritan woman who gave Jesus water to drink (John 4:1-42); the unconventional woman who wet Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and poured expensive perfume on them (Luke 7:36-50). All three showed their love in different ways. Our little acts of love and kindness, coming from a sincere heart, can also be a witness to others, "not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Ephesians 6:6).

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, national WMF president, welcomed each one and all joined in singing "Living For Jesus," "What A Friend," "Heavenly Sunshine" and the Table Grace. Mrs. Roy Mohagen, local president, responded, expressing appreciation for our presence and trusting that each one would go home feeling happy for the blessings received.

Mrs. Arlo Kneeland, vice-president, thanked for the love and work that made our banquet and workshop a success. She read from 1 John 4:12b: "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." The group sang "Hearty Thank You" to the ladies of the Federated Church who had prepared and served us a fine meal.

Mrs. Enderlein gave recognition to past officers who were present, the present officers, and took a roll call of districts represented. Those responding were: Northern Michigan, S. W. Central, Minneapolis, North Central, N. W. Minn., S. Dak., Western N. Dak.-Eastern Montana, Eastern N. Dak., and Brazil. She presented Mrs. Snipstead, wife of our newly-elected AFLC president, with a corsage from the WMF.

The Tioga Trio favored us with two numbers. Mrs. Vernon Russum led in devotions, reading from 1 John 3, telling of God's love toward us and exhorting us to love our brethren.

Mrs. Emil Hass, Jr., treasurer, gave a report on the WMF finances for the past year. Again we had exceeded our budget by more than 50%. It was with enthusiasm and gratitude that we raised our voices in singing "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow."

At this time the Tioga Trio favored us with two patriotic songs which made us realize the blessings of life we have in a free land. How many more and greater blessings and freedom one can have if his life is in Christ!

Priscilla Wold, missionary home on furlough, brought warm greetings from the nationalists in Brazil, the churches and the missionaries—Abels, Dyruds and Knapps. They are so very thankful for the supportive giving of the AFLC

churches, such as Sunday School materials, clothing, funds, etc., and especially the prayer support. Distance is insignificant when praying for one another, so don't ease up on prayer. Be good prayer warriors. God wants us to pray for specific people and prayer requests. She asked that we pray now for the David Abels who have just left for the mission field, for Cindy Alpert, who will be assuming Priscilla's duties while she is in the States. The parents and families of those who go to the mission field need our prayers as they have that anxious, parental concern for those leaving. The Kvanvigs are much in need of prayer, that Susan's health may be restored according to His will, and that He will use them in His place of service. There is a great need for more missionaries, more funds, more national workers and needs for those we have must be met. Priscilla and her family need prayer as she prepares to go out on deputation work and encouraging others to become more aware and concerned for the needs of missions. She gave out prayer lists that hopefully will get into every AFLC church. She closed with this quote, "No prayer—no power, some prayer—some power, lots of prayer—lots of power." God is all-powerful, so let us trust in Him for this power that He will give for our asking.

Judith Wold, our Executive Secretary, spoke on "Making Your Bible Study Alive." Let us use every opportunity we have to study the Word. Read the Bible lesson as soon as you receive it. *Don't* wait until the last minute to do your Bible Study—you will only be cheating yourself. *Don't* do it all at once, but pray and meditate on a few questions at a time. As you ponder on a section, ask yourself these questions: (1) What does this paragraph say? (2) What does it mean? (3) What is God saying to me in this paragraph? In the meantime, you will be having experiences that may enlighten you and make that portion of His Word alive in your life. Get involved in the discussion—don't sit back and be only a listener; share your experiences; become an enthusiastic participator. *Don't* refuse to give a Bible Study. Each person is unique. Don't compare yourself with others as to methods or

WMF Rally

abilities. Try something new. Variety adds interest. Be sure to have your lesson questions filled. Wait upon the Spirit to give you ideas and ways to present the study in an interesting and challenging way. Give God time each day. *Pray — Read — Think — Answer — Write — Share — Be Prepared.*

Several ladies assisted Judith in a skit which introduced a study in Colossians. Everyone has a way of life that seems sound and practical, mak

difficult to discern what is truth. The ladies represented Materialism, Self-Indulgence, Humanism, Political Isms, Moralism, and Christian. Each wanted to be heard and each claimed to lead to truth. These same voices that were heard in Paul's day, during the time of his letter to the Colossians, are heard by us today. Colossians speaks clearly to us. Christ alone is sufficient. When Christ dwells in us we can live a rich and complete life in

Him. It is our personal decision as to which voice we will listen to and obey. Whose voice will it be? Your choice is important.

Mrs. Herb Presteng, past president, closed with prayer. The blessings received were many. There was much food for thought as we left a most enjoyable evening of Christian fellowship.

Mrs. Reuben Wee
Secretary

Minot WMF honors two, enrolls two

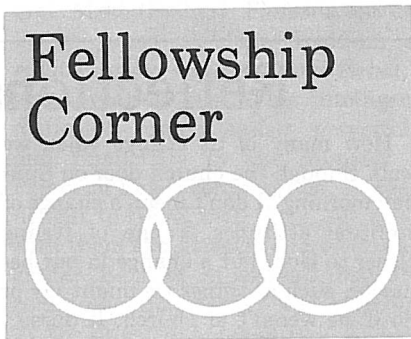
Bethel Lutheran Church of Minot, N. Dak., recently enrolled two babies in the WMF Cradle Roll. Honored were Sarah Joy Olson, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Terry Olson, and John David Fred son of Mr. and Mrs. David Fred. This was a very special evening as Sarah and John were the first children enrolled in the Cradle Roll at Bethel Church. Mrs. Dianne Wolla, Cradle Roll secretary, was in charge of the program.

Greetings were brought by Mrs. Wolla. The Adult Bible Class were guests for this special program.

The group sang "I Think When I Read That Sweet Story Of Old." Devotions were given by Hildur Nordin, based on Luke 18:15-17. Childrens' stories were read by Mrs. Wolla, Mrs. Edna Folden and Mrs. Clara Johnson. Mrs. Melida Haakenson read "The Rights of a Child." Other songs sung were "Into My Heart," "Children of the Heavenly Father" and "Jesus Loves Me."

Sarah and John were each presented with a gift. Pray for these little ones that they may be kept steadfast and grow in grace and knowledge of Christ.

Dianne Wolla



WMF Honorary Membership pins were presented to Mrs. Carrie Nelson and Mrs. Edna Folden at the WMF meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minot, N. Dak.

Mrs. Clara Johnson, left, presented the pin to Carrie Nelson. Mrs. Melida Haakenson, right, presented Mrs. Edna Folden with a pin. Hilder Nordin, center, is president of Bethel WMF.

Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Folden are both charter members of Bethel Church. Both these women are dedicated to seeing the work of God's Kingdom go forward in their church and community. If anyone is sick or in need neither Edna or Carrie ever spare themselves. Their Christian testimony has reached many far and near.

—Hildur Nordin

I DECIDED TO CONFESS

I want to share with the readers of *The Lutheran Ambassador* an experience that I had through which I have learned how wonderful the grace of God is and how good it is to confess our sins rather than hide them.

About 50 years ago, when I was a young man, I was out riding in my car, having a good time with four of my friends. I was not a Christian at that time. During the evening, one of my friends lost his wallet in my car.

He asked for help to find the wallet in the dark car and I did find it. But then the thought came to me, "How handy it would be to have a little extra money at this time!" I told myself that I would give the money back to him later and so with this excuse in mind I pretended not to know where the wallet was.

The Bible says that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Although I wasn't a Christian, I knew that verse from the Bible and my conscience bothered me about the stolen wallet. I knew that I should return it, but I had already lied to my friend. Now I was afraid to return the wallet to him.

So next I told myself that I would do work for my friend on his farm and make up to him the amount of money that I had stolen, but it didn't work. I knew that this didn't really make up for what I had done and also it seemed that my friend always did more for me than I was able to do for him.

This sin lay on my heart for many, many years, even after I became a Christian. I did not have peace about it. Then about two years ago I decided to confess what I had done and make it right once and for all.

(Continued on page 14)



Medicine Lake youth group.

Medicine Lake Youth Present Program

Fifteen teenagers sang and gave three skits for a recent Sunday evening program at Medicine Lake Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minn.

The newly formed group have named themselves "Lemuel." Besides their regular Bible studies and activities, they have been busy settling into their new youth room on the church balcony and making a banner for the church. John and Cindy Schlenk, Paul Abel and Luisa Sikkink are advisors.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

WINTER FUN

Fourteen young people, both Luther Leaguers and Bemidji State University students of Bethany Lutheran Church in Bemidji, Minn., showed up for an evening of fellowship at the Dan Janz home on Jan. 12.

God inquired of Job, "Have you seen the storehouses of the snow?" and although we didn't encounter such storehouses we did enjoy the snow which God has provided through an evening of sliding. There seemed to be no lack of enthusiasm in spite of cold temperatures and a very fast hill. One participant, Dean Schroeder, did injure his neck; however, we thank God that he appears to have fully recovered.

Following the sliding we were warmed by a nice fire and hot apple cider. The evening ended in song and a Bible study as we considered what Isaiah wrote about the ever-present and all-powerful saving hand of God.

Ray S. Persson is the pastor at Bethany.

—Harold Voth

Reflections of Christ

How many of us change when we walk through the church door on Sunday morning? I don't mean a change of spiritual attitudes or one of feeling closer to God, but a change in our behavior, such as things we might say or do if we weren't at church. It doesn't make any difference that we were out smoking and drinking on Monday, swearing at our teacher on Thursday, or gossiping last night, because on Sunday morning we're "Christians."

Why is it that way? It shouldn't be. Our lives should reflect Christ all the time, not just on Sundays. We should be the person we are on Sunday morning and all week long. We should try to reflect Christ at school, at work, when we're out with friends, and at home.

Home. Why is home the hardest

place to be Christ-like? I think it is our attitudes that make it hardest to reflect Christ at home. Brother and sister don't matter anyway." These may be some excuses for not reflecting Christ at home. What about school? "They'll think I'm a square . . . I don't want to be different . . . I won't be accepted if I don't do what everybody else does." No matter how good our excuses are or how justified we may feel when we use them, we are still doing the same thing. We are failing Christ.

It is our calling as Christians to reflect Christ at all times. How will people come to know Christ unless they see the difference that He makes in our lives?

It's easy to be a Christian at church. It's much harder to reflect Christ at home, at school, out in public and with our friends. Outside of church is where we need to be Christ-like the most. How can we do that?

It's impossible for us to reflect Christ on our own, but He will help us if we sincerely ask Him. One of the first steps is to start reading the Bible. It's never been used to its full potential. Take it off the shelf and dust off the cobwebs. Start reading it faithfully.

When you turn to Christ for help and guidance, an amazing thing will happen. He will change you on the inside and you will start to grow in your faith. You won't have to worry about trying to act the right way in church. Your life will be guided by Him and it will be easier for you to reflect Christ no matter where you are.

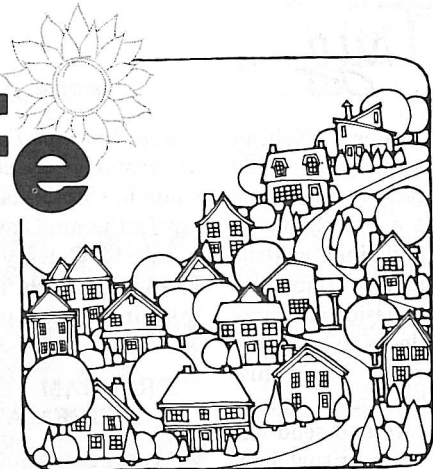
—Leslie Spading
Kirkland, Wash.

"EARLY WILL I SEEK THEE"

(Also from Bemidji) Even though occasionally a car doesn't start or an alarm doesn't go off, the Bethany Lutheran college-age group has been finding the early morning hour an especially rich one for fellowship and study of God's Word. For almost a year every other Tuesday at 6:30 we have been meeting at the Country Kitchen restaurant. Even when the temperature drops down to 20 and 30 below zero, we have found our "hearts strangely warmed" in the company of believers around God's Word. How grateful we are to have the freedom to meet, to pray, to encourage and to learn from one another.

—Becky Graven

Life on the Edge of Town



People Pray

The Winter Snows

I hesitate to write about snow today because when you read this the snow will be about gone. But today, February 27, it lies deep upon the earth, probably as deep as it ever has here. One reason is that we've certainly had a least normal snowfall and there's been very little wind. We haven't had anything approaching a blizzard (up to now). Never have I seen snow as deep upon our roof (nothing new to those of you in Kalispell and Upper Michigan).

Skiing has been difficult this winter. Any attempt to cover new ground finds one knee deep in the snow on skis. The snow has been that soft.

There have been some of those subtle hints now that spring will come. Some days in February when the temperature got into the 20s the air just seemed different. A slight haze also seemed to tell of warmer days coming.

Two birds were out on an evergreen near an office window this morning. I didn't recognize them, but wonder if they are early arrivals from the south.

Winter has often been thought of as a time to catch up on some things neglected, but that hasn't worked out this year. Life keeps pretty busy.

At New Luther Valley Church, McVile, N. Dak., last November, I got in on a men's prayer breakfast. That such could be held at all in a rural community was a revelation to me. Pastor K. Anderson served the breakfast that day and did a good job and I gave the brief meditation.

But it was the prayer session itself that I wanted to mention. Before we went to prayer we were each given a sheet of paper on which to write the prayer requests and there were a lot of them. Then we could take those requests home with us and more easily remember them. It seemed a good idea.

In January I taught a course in written communication in our seminary during the inter-term. As is the custom in the regular schedule, too, we began each day with a devotional session led by one of the students. Before a season of prayer each day, two congregations of the Association are mentioned as special objects of prayer. I think that our congregations would like to know that our seminary students and faculty are systematically remembering them in prayer. How well are we in the congregations doing in interceding for the seminary: for those there now and for new students and faculty as needed?

Boom in Publishing

In recent months there has been a real flurry in the publishing of books and pamphlets by Association people. We don't know what has brought it on, but what a happy occurrence.

The latest one I've heard of is a booklet of messages by Pastor John De Boer. Perhaps the best known is Pastor Gerald Mundfrom's book *Purged*, the story of his experience of mental depression. Mrs. Jay Erickson of Minneapolis has a collection of delightful incidents out of the life of her family called *His Mysterious Ways*. Russell Duncan of Fargo has the story of his life in print and another book about a trip to Russia. Ellen Nielsen of Sisseton, S. Dak., has a book of homey verse called *Rhyme and Reason for Any Season*.

Folks on the West Coast aren't to be outdone either. Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten has two booklets of meditations out. I've heard that Pastor A. L. Hokanson has a book of sermons or messages in print. Pastor Karl G. Berg is working on one or two similar books.

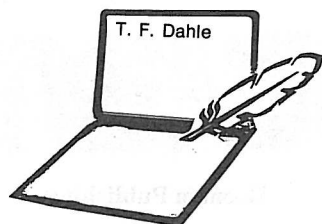
Perhaps there are more. At any rate, we are sure there will be more, if the above are any indication. (Please do not write to me for further information about the above. Make contacts with the writers themselves.)

Whitefish, Here We Come

Overheard at the Bible Conference in Grafton: plans for a camper caravan to the Annual Conference in Whitefish in June. It sounded like the procession of recreational vehicles will originate in Minnesota on Saturday, June 9. The Conference begins the following Wednesday. Sheldon Mortrud of Thief River Falls, Minn., and Bob Dietsche of Sand Creek, Wis., might be good men to contact about this for further information.

Also heard of one couple planning to go out to the Montana community by Amtrak. I'm sure there'll be more using that means of transportation, too, as well as buses.

—Raynard Huglen



Thoughts from Tryg

"IF I PREACH NOT THE GOSPEL"

"Ye shall be My witnesses—" (Acts 1:8).

This was the parting message of Jesus to His disciples before He ascended to heaven. In another of His closing messages, He said: "All authority hath been given unto Me, in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:18-19). When Jesus departed He left the propagation of the Gospel in the hands of His disciples. Missions is the business of the church. No man lives unto himself and no man dies to himself (Rom. 14:7). No church can exist very long on a selfish basis. We must be a light in our community and beyond, as far as we are able to reach out, through our prayers and our gifts. We cannot all go, and all have not the call, but we can all pray and give to support those who have been called. Paul said, "The love of Christ constraineth us," and in another place, he says, "Woe is me, if I preach not the Gospel."

A Mission-minded church is a growing church. A church that has no interest in Missions is a dying church. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Our AFLC from its beginning voted to start a mission some place and Brazil in South America was the chosen place. No individual congregation can carry on a mission

alone; it is too big a project. Neither can it operate a seminary or Bible school alone, but together, *we* can do it. The AFLC is not a synod, but is made up of free and independent Lutheran congregations working together in schools and missions to carry out the command of Jesus to bring the Gospel into all the world. To do this, the Schools are of the utmost importance. There we educate and send out workers into this great spiritual harvest at home and abroad.

If then every member of every congregation will support this great work according to ability, we can meet our quotas. If, however, someone neglects his responsibility, someone else will have to carry the load or the work will suffer for lack of funds, causing a hardship. There is a continual cry on our Mission fields, "Please send us a teacher to tell us about Jesus." But we cannot send them unless we have the funds and the funds do not come unless we all do our fair share. Let us all pray sincerely for guidance from the Lord, as to what we should give. The generous giver is the winner and the slacker is the loser, as we read in II Cor. 9:6, "He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." "God loveth a cheerful giver." "Bless me, Lord, and make me a blessing."

Trygve F. Dahle

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Norman Tenneboe has resigned as pastor of Section Ten Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Wis., and Bethany Lutheran, Clayton, Wis., to accept a call to Calvary Lutheran Church, Eben Jct., Mich. and will take up his work in the new parish soon.

PROGRAM FOR CHRISTMAS GIVEN AT BEMIDJI

With every halo on straight, the jeweled wise men sparkling and glowing, and Mary dressed simply, and beautiful, we were ready to begin our Christmas program at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bemidji, Minn. What a joy for our Sunday School to present the story of the birth of our precious Lord and Savior. All the practice and faithful hours spent sewing costumes was now behind us.

Our program, "Around the Manger," told again the wondrous story that one never tires of hearing. Our story began and closed with reflections from the innkeeper, remembered through the centuries for directing the young couple to the manger, having no room in his inn. The angels, the shepherds, the stars, the wise men, our pre-schoolers and, of course, Mary and Joseph stirred hearts afresh in reminding us of this most holy night.

Becky Graven
Superintendent

Confession . . .

I bought a new wallet and I put into it the amount of money that had been in the stolen wallet. Then with much fear I went to my friend's house. He was not at home, but his sister was. I put the new wallet on the kitchen table and explained to her what I had done. I said, "If he can forgive me, let me know."

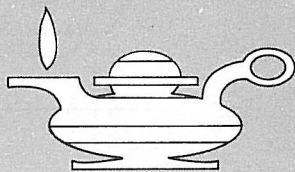
Then I went home and waited. About a week passed and I still had heard nothing, so I went back to my friend's house. He met me at the door, opened it wide, and said, "Come on

in!" We sat down together and before I could even say what I intended to say to him, he said, "Forget it. I haven't been able to come to see you, and so I was just going to write you a letter." He forgave me for what I had done. He, too, had become a Christian.

What peace there is in doing God's will! The Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). I have experienced this and how wonderful it is!

I want to share this experience in *The Lutheran Ambassador* with the hope that it will help others to find peace with God also. If you have a hidden sin in your life which hinders your peace with God, confess it to Him and also to others, if necessary. He is so good to forgive and to help us to face others also. If just one soul can be helped by the telling of this story, then it is worthwhile.

Andrew Salvhus
McIntosh, Minnesota



SCHOOL NEWS

Jottings from AFLBS

by Mark Gaulke

In spite of record snowfall burying the AFLBS campus, activities thrive in the winter months. Students always seem to find something to keep themselves busy. Activities spring out from nowhere.

An all-school retreat, after weeks of

Missions emphasized

By Paul Abel

"I will also make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Is. 49:66).

The AFLC Schools' Mission Week began on Tuesday, Feb. 6, and continued through Sunday.

Mr. Donald Rodvold, director of the music department, with the Bible School choral groups, opened the week with an evening of mission songs. Mr. Rodvold gave a brief history of each song and presented a challenge for missions.

Wednesday night the three Medicine Lake Lutheran Congregation choirs sang: the Hosanna children's choir, the youth group and the senior choir. Thursday night we heard from the "Gift of Song" and "Evangel" Gospel teams from the Bible School. On Friday evening Pastor and Mrs. Rao Dasari's children sang at the banquet. The Saturday night music was brought to us by individual students of the Bible School. The Medicine Lake Choir, Faith Lutheran Church and Rosedale Lutheran Church brought the special music for our last service on Sunday evening. Music was a special treat throughout the week.

Rev. David Molstre, AFLC evangelist and youth worker, brought two excellent sermons on Wednesday. The emphasis was on Jesus, the Light of the world, and Christians as reflections of that Light.

(Continued on page 16)

preparation, had its start on Friday night of January 26 and continued through the 28th, hosted by the Kruegers at their lodge near Amery, Wisconsin. After the sharing, "tubing," games, delicious food, Pastor Michael Brandt's meditations, and limited sleep, the students returned physically tired but spiritually uplifted.

The volleyball team began playing in December with a team of nine players. They are led by tri-captains Tami Bjorgaard, Brigitta Nelson and Twila Askvig. Other players are Erin Barrett, Donette Carter, Mary Haugen, Mary Johnson, Renita Molstre and Sandy Russum. The current undefeated record caused spirits to soar as city-wide tournaments arrived in March.

While the girls were winning, the boys' basketball team also was undefeated well into February. The 11-man team was coached by Pastor Moland.

The players were co-captains Arden Jacobson and Steve Myhre, along with teammates Jerry Blake, Doug Estrem, Donald Grothe, Keith Kinneberg, Steve Moan, Joel Nash, Mike Palkie, Keith Quanbeck and Greg Schmitke.

During the last few months we've had five Gospel teams travel to area churches, rest homes, and as far away as Bismarck, North Dakota. These teams spread the ministry of the Gospel in song and testimony. They vary in size from five to 12 people. Evangel, Joy, Tetelestai, Gift of Song, and Living Water will continue their weekend ministries throughout the spring.

As spring sneaks through winter's grip, students anticipate spring quarter activities. New student officers, president—Joel Nash; vice-president—Craig Benson; secretary—Mary Haugen; treasurer—Nancy Moe; and chaplain—Gene Vukonich, are finding themselves caught up in the whirlwind of activities.

Spring Quarter Activities

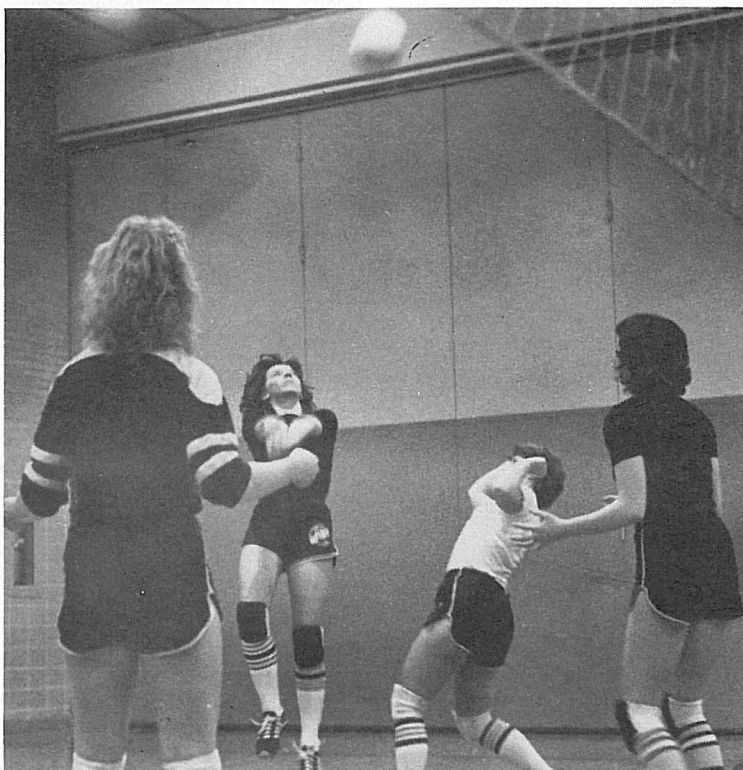
March 30-31—Promotion Days

April 4-12—Choral Club Tour

April 12-22—Easter Break

April 14-29—Choir Tour

May 18—Graduation, 8 p.m.



Tami Bjorgaard set up the ball for another effective return.

President installed at Bible Conference

Before a good audience at the closing evening service of the Winter Bible Conference on Feb. 16, in Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., Rev. Richard Snipstead was installed as the second president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Officiating at the investiture was Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee. He was assisted by Mr. Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak., representing the Board of Home Missions, Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVille, N. Dak., of the Co-ordinating Committee, Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Schools, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River Falls, Minn., chairman of the Board of World Missions, Rev. Amos Dyrud, dean of the AFLC Seminary, and Rev. Kenneth Moland, dean of the AFLC Bible School.

In his response, Pastor Snipstead read Ephesians 4:7: "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift." He called the evening a most meaningful one in his life and said that in the months he has been in office he has experienced much joy in the work and sensed in a greater way the opportunities it presents. He quoted from the hymn "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," including these words:

"For her my tears shall fall;
For her my pray'rs ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n,
Till toils and cares shall end."

Before the benediction, his daughter Anne, Mrs. John Presteng of Grafton, played "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" as a violin solo.

Pastor and Mrs. Snipstead were then honored at a reception in the church parlors.

Pastor Snipstead was elected to succeed Pastor John Strand as president at the church's conference last June and assumed office on Oct. 1.

The sermon on Friday evening was preached by Rev. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis., the evening speaker for the conference. He spoke on loving the Lord with all one's heart, soul, strength and mind. Earlier in the week

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Mission Week . . .

Pastor Eugene Enderlein, chairman of the AFLC Board of World Missions, spoke twice on Thursday, challenging us to be God's instruments for reaching the lost world. The AFLC has visions for expansion on the home front, in

he had spoken of the love directed toward one's self and one's neighbor.

The Tetelestai Gospel Team from the Bible School provided special music on Friday evening. (Tetelestai means "It is finished" in Greek.) The pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Rodger Olson, led the service.

The Bible studies at the conference were taught by Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari of the Schools. He covered the first 12 chapters of Isaiah, emphasizing the Messianic prophecies.

Overall theme of the conference was "The Christian Home in God's Plan." Presentations on the topic were made by Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak., farmer, Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak., Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn., educator, Rev. Wendell Johnson, and Rev. David Molstre, AFLC evangelist-youth worker. Their talks, in shorter form, will appear in the *Ambassador* later.

A WMF workshop was held on Friday afternoon beginning at 3 at the Federated Church. A report on it is to be found elsewhere in this issue. For dinner (supper) that day the men ate at a local restaurant and had a brief devotional fellowship before the meal.

Weather worked havoc with attendance at the conference. Heavy drifting kept many away on Thursday and from coming to the conference at all. Friday was a cold day. But taking the weather into consideration, the turnout was respectable.

Mexico, in Brazil, in India, to Paraguay and Argentina in the near future.

Miss Priscilla Wold, newly home from Brazil, using her field experience and the Word, shared a message on the theme "People in darkness have seen the Light." The summary of her message can be this that though people in darkness have seen the Light there is still a growing need to send the Light through many different ministries.

One of the highlights of our week was the Friday night banquet. Mr. Sidhom Sidhom, executive director of Worldwide Friendship, Inc., of Minneapolis, an organization developed to share Christ with international students on the college and university campuses here, prepared a foreign meal for us. It was good to have a taste of foreign cuisine.

Saturday morning was spent in praise and prayer for specific mission needs. Also, Priscilla Wold led an informal discussion and showed slides.

Rev. Theodore Manaen, associate director of the World Mission Prayer League, spoke at the Saturday night youth rally. He raised the question: "Where are we in our relationship with God?" Assuredly, we must *have* in order to *give*; this is an appropriate challenge for every Christian. A snack and "after glow" followed. The testimonies revealed the impact of this week on many students.

On Sunday Pastor Molstre again shared the Word in the morning and evening services.

Please pray with us that the results of the Word sown this week will continue to bear fruit in our Bible School and Seminary, in our churches and throughout the world in months and years to come. All glory be to Jesus who is the Light of the world.